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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

THE TOP SOCCER STORIES IN YOUR BIG VALUE PAPER



Mariani talks

BY TOM ANDERSON

MARCONI'S embattled coach Berti Mariani is confident his team will make the end of the season playoffs despite their poor start to this year's campaign.

Mariani is also just as confident he is on the right track to produce the desired results and rebuild a strong side for the future, with his high demanding organisation.

"Sure we have not had the best of starts to the season, but the tide will turn, I'm sure of that, as there is a great deal of talent to work with," he said.

"However, we still need one or two players to boost our first team squad of 14 players.

"We all realised this would be a difficult season, but patience must be exercised to overcome the present situation."

Mariani, after four years as manager-coach of Marconi, wanted to have a rest this year.

However, after three months of negotiations he was talked into signing a new two year contract.



PUSKAS STILL THE MASTER!

page 18



PLUS: A DREAM COME TRUE page 19

NSL CLUBS TV ANGER!

BY TOM ANDERSON

A number of NSL clubs are up in arms over the amazing situation of having to pay for extra lighting when their home matches are televised this season.

When their home matches are televised, clubs are being hit with bills of over \$2,000 for the hire of extra floodlights when their lighting is deemed not up to standard.

Last season, the cost of extra lighting was paid by the ABC network, who then televised the action.

This season, when the ABC axed soccer, the ASF have been forced to underwrite the production costs of NSL games on SBS.

The production of the the games is being executed by a private company.

And in turn, the ASF has handed down the cost of extra lighting to the clubs, those whose floodlights are not up to standard.

"It came as quite a shock when we were billed for the payment of extra lights," one prominent NSL boss told ABSW this week.

"We now reckon with all the extras such as lighting etc, it will cost us around \$50,000 a year just to be a member of the NSL."

ASF chief exec Ian Holmes said that the clubs were informed before the season started, they must have their floodlights up to required television standard.

All the best of British pages 26-32

What ABSW says . . .

THIS week the Australian Olympic team will fly off to Fiji to contest the second round of the Oceania qualifiers.

We wish Eddie Thomson and his squad all the luck in the world and hope they win through to the final elimination round against a yet unknown European nation.

FIFA was founded in 1904, and the first football to be played at the Olympics was a mini series at the 1904 Games.

Official medals were first awarded at the 1924 Olympics with Uruguay picking up gold.

In 1948, football became an integral and important part of the Games, occupying number one in the popularity stakes.

But despite this fact, FIFA has always insured that football at the Olympics did not overshadow the World Cup - the world's greatest sporting series.

And, when the word "amateur" disappeared from the scene, strong steps were taken in this direction.

In 1978, FIFA forbid World Cup players from Europe and South America from taking part in the action.

Now we have the Olympic tournament confined to players under the age of 23.

Which underlines the fact that as far as FIFA are concerned, the World Cup and not the Olympics is football's major series.

'THE OLYMPICS'

It is to be hoped the ASF also realise this fact in their planning and give the senior Socceroos first priority in their buildup for the 1994 World Cup.

The bottom line of course is, if the Socceroos were to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals the ASF would receive a minimum of \$1.5 million.

Whereas, qualification for the Barcelona Olympics would bring in no financial revenue whatsoever.

These are the hard facts of present day professional football where finance overrules glory.

— THE EDITOR.

City win but Marconi on improve



ADELAIDE CITY 2
MARCONI 1



BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic still is convinced Marconi will be a top five challenger at the end of his National Soccer League season.

His 'machine' eventually ground the Fair-

field side into submission on Sunday at Hindmarsh Stadium for a 2-1 win.

But Matic said later: "Marconi will be back."

"They look as if they have come into the season too easy and know now they now have to step up a gear. They will be there at the end of the season. I am sure of that. They have too many good players."

Marconi, despite taking a safety first ap-

proach against City with many players always behind the ball and all determined not to lose, still looks to have defensive frailty which can cost it dearly.

City dominated much of the territory and play but never really got enough men up into scoring positions to punish the lowly visitors on a slippery Hindmarsh pitch.

Marconi then was allowed to show menace in sporadic, quick raids with John Markovski often the architect or finisher.

The big man showed the class that has earned him international recognition. Too few of

others among his teammates had the power to match City's possession play based from the best defensive combination in the league.

Markovski, mysteriously left unattended, rocked Marconi back into the game in 61 minutes with a scorching volley from a Gary van Egmond cut back.

City had taken the lead in 42 minutes with a headed Paul Shillabeer goal from a Sergio Melta cross.

A Shillabeer volley was blocked by Bobby Catlin and Joe Mullen dithered before squirming a shot wide in the opening 10 minutes of the second-half as

City stepped up a gear.

But the Markovski goal stunned the crowd and put Egmond, de Marigny, Calderan, lyroo carl veart, who had battled well up front almost alone against the odds, showed his bruised foot had healed well with a thundering drive home in 72 minutes to seal the points for City.

that sent the marconi players off into stunned after-match silence in their dressing room.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Melta, Tappal, Veart, Mullen, Maxwell, Csoboth.

MARCONI: Catlin, van Egmond, de Marigny, Calderan, Blagojevic Harper, McCulloch, Georgakis, Corica, Markovski, Lowe.



Carl Veart

SCORERS: Adelaide City 2 (Shillabeer 42), Veart (72) Marconi 1 (Markovski 61).

POINTS: 3 — Markovski (Mar); 2 — Csoboth (Ad City); 1 — Mullen (Ad City). CROWD: 3500.

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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WEEKLY

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A new team?

BY ALBERT MARTINEZ

THE Macarthur Districts Soccer Football Association is nurturing an ambitious plan to field a Campbelltown team in the National Soccer League by the Year 2000.

One of the biggest associations in NSW, the MDSFA has long term plans for soccer in the Macarthur region if their proposed takeover of the state league second division side, Campbelltown City Vikings, is successful.

The MDSFA recently bought the Vikings' state league position for \$25,000 after mounting costs made the playing future of the Vikings a year to year proposition.

In 1991 the Vikings were financed and operated by the Gunners United Junior Soccer Club.

The NSW Soccer Federation must now decide whether to ratify the takeover and accept the MDSFA's application to the 1992 State League first division.

President of the MDSFA, Terry Ardouin, said the team's acceptance to the state league next year seemed a formality which would be a real shot in the arm for soccer in Campbelltown and surrounding districts.

"It's without doubt the most important thing that's happened to the code in this area since the association formed in 1983," Ardouin said.

"With the association having its own senior team we can confidently plan the future of soccer in the district."

Not content with a place in the state league, the association is eyeing off a place in the NSL 10 years down the track.

"That's the aim, it has to be," Ardouin said.

"Without being pie in the sky, and we know we have a lot of hard work to do before then, we want to make it to the national league."

The MDSFA state league team will be known as the Campbelltown Macarthur Rams and will be based at Lynwood Park, St Helens Park.

NSL SCORE BOARD

Results

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	5	4	1	0	10	3	9
South Melbourne	5	4	0	1	17	5	8
Melb. Croatia	5	4	0	1	11	5	8
Wollongong City	5	3	2	0	7	1	8
Sydney Olympic	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Brisbane Utd	5	2	2	1	7	7	6
APIA Leichhardt	5	2	1	2	3	8	5
Heidelberg Utd	5	2	0	3	8	8	4
Newcastle BHP	5	2	0	3	6	7	4
Sydney Croatia	5	1	1	3	5	9	3
Preston	5	1	1	3	4	8	3
Parra Melita	5	0	2	3	1	7	2
West Adelaide	5	0	2	3	3	11	2
Marconi	5	0	1	4	4	10	1

TOP GOAL SCORERS

6 Tim Bredbury (Syd Olympic)
6 Kim Taliadoros (South Melb)
4 Paul Trimboli (South Melb)
4 Francis Awaritefe (Melb Croatia)

AWARD PROGRESS POINTS

8 Bredbury (SO)
7 Davidson (MC)
7 Biskic (MC)
6 Blair (SM)
6 Bundalo (WC)
6 Pimblett (BU)
5 Trimboli (SMH)
5 Katholos (SO)
5 Halligan (BU)

CROWDS

ROUND 5: 22,446
Average per Game: 3,206

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

NEWCASTLE BHP 0 APIA LEICHARDT 1 (Gibson) at Austral Park. Crowd: 4661.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Bredbury, Lee) MELB CROATIA 1 (Awaritefe) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 4692.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Taliadoros 2, Tsolakis) WEST ADELAIDE 0 at Middle Park. Crowd: 3,500.
PRESTON 0 PARRA MELITA 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 1,800.
WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Bundalo) HEIDELBERG UTD 0 at Brandon Park. Crowd: 2,398.
ADELAIDE CITY 2 (Shillabeer, Veart) MARCONI 1 (Markovski) at Hindmarsh Stadium. 3,500.
SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Krslovic, Ricoy) BRISBANE UNITED 2 (Slater, Koch) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 1,895.



If it's NSL action you want read it in ABSW

APIA back in tip top form



APIA 1
NEWCASTLE 0

BY FRANK ROBERTS

Apia Leichhardt coach Manfred Schaefer showed he has his charges back on the NSL rails with a promising all round display in beating Newcastle Breakers 1-0 at Austral Park last Friday night.

Scoring the first goal of its own making this season through National Olympic squad member John Gibson. Apia was rock solid at the back and showed enough up front to send out a warning to other teams.

Although Apia had been on the scoresheet twice before in the previous four rounds through own goals, Gibson's 20th minute goal should give his side and National coach Eddie Thomson plenty to cheer about.

But it was a trio of former Newcastle players, captain Darren Stewart, John McQuarrie and Graham Jennings, with help from Peter Bennett, who protected the Sydneysiders' lead and prevented the home side breaking the boredom. Olympic squad member Tony Franken must have felt in a rarely threatened goalmouth.

In attack, Apia's experienced strikers Rod Brown and Scott Ollerenshaw gave a composed Newcastle defence a busy night, while new boy Reno Minichiello from Victoria did enough to suggest his sparkling style will bring goals and spectators to the NSL.

Apia scored its winner when Newcastle failed to clear a cross by Jennings outside their area and Gibson hammered a left foot shot from 15m past Breakers' keeper Sean Lahiff.

Despite a late comeback from midway through the second half when Newcastle showed some of the composure on the ball they did in beating South Melbourne several weeks ago, the home side's attack broke down as they tried



BRAD MALONEY

to find lone striker, Kiwi representative Noel Barkley.

With Scottish midfielder Ian Heddle struggling to get through the match after a solid challenge from McQuarrie in the 5th minute broke his nose, Newcastle lacked ideas and options in the midfield.

Newcastle's poor performance in the middle of the park was highlighted by Barkley being forced many times in the second period to come back to half way to get the ball.

McQuarrie, fired by Newcastle's rejection of him after a dispute over terms, will sit out next week after referee Emmanuel Loupis handed him his second yellow in two games.

But while Stowell was angry about the incident, Heddle later admitted it was a 50-50 ball.

Fortunately for a Newcastle side which has grabbed only two points from a possible eight at home despite the luxury of having four home matches in its first five outings, the defence of local products Ralph Maier and Andy Roberts allowed Apia only two other genuine scoring chances.

In the 35th minute Brown glanced a header just wide when Lahiff was well beaten but in the 63rd minute Lahiff showed his ability in the air from direct strikes when he tipped a 30m scorcher by Ollerenshaw over the bar.

The only times Barkley's fellow Kiwi Colin Tuua was inside the box he turned his shot wide of the post and in the 86th minute Barkley drove wide from long range.

A bubbling Schaefer said after the game that his Newcastle 'rejects'

had done very well and should have been playing against, not for Apia.

"We were very sharp and should have had another goal," Schaefer said.

"My boys were very steady at the back and controlled their attack easily."

Newcastle coach Bruce Stowell said his side was sloppy in the first half and gave away a bad goal.

Stowell had dropped former Queensland midfielder Nick Meredith to the youth side and was forced to replace Tuua at half-time with another local product, Bobby Naumov, because the Kiwi is not coping with the NSL pace.

Stowell said he was happy with his side's second half effort because they at least got themselves into scoring positions, even if they were not positive in front of goal.

"Like last week (a 1-2 loss to Sydney Croatia) we missed chances," Stowell said.

"We were sloppy in the first half and gave away a bad goal but in the second half they were only dangerous from breakaways and we worked much harder.

"We created chances to shoot but we must force the goalkeeper to make saves."

Stowell will no doubt have to think hard this week about how to reorganise his side in time to face Parramatta Melita away from home on Sunday.

But although Heddle had a nose that now points towards his left ear, the tough little Scot should be able to play against Melita, an appearance that is essential if Newcastle is to regain lost ground.

Schaefer's only injury concern was Brown, who was replaced as a precaution late in the game after a head clash with Craig Moffitt, but appeared to be alright.

NEWCASTLE: Lahiff, Maier, Heddle, Roberts, Koczka, Moffitt, Northam, Tuua (Naumov half-time), Koch, Barkley, Maloney.

APIA: Franken, McQuarrie, Jennings, Stewart, Bennett, Clinch, Ellem, Ollerenshaw, Brown (Miranda 75), Minichiello (Doyle 89), Gibson.

Scorers: Gibson (20) for Apia.

Cards: McQuarrie (5), Tuua (22), Koczka (31), Clinch (62).

Referee: Emmanuel Loupis.

Crowd: 4661.
Points: McQuarrie (A)3, Minichiello (A)2, Roberts (N)1.

A five minute blitz



SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2
MELB. CROATIA 0

BY LACHLAN BARKER

SYDNEY Olympic inflicted the first defeat of the season on competition front-runners Melbourne Croatia at St George Stadium on Sunday evening.

Olympic Hong Kong import Tim Bredbury scored in the 85th and substitute Grant Lee bagged a 90th minute goal to set up a 2-1 victory.

Olympic were dominant for the bulk of the game, in the first half outside right Dave Barrett provided most of their spark.

Olympic coach Mick Hickman gave Barrett a loose roving commission on the right flank and he used the space effectively.

Olympic showed



signs of things to come as early as the 17th minute when central midfielder Eric Hristodolou sent a 25 metre drive swirling at the Croatian goal.

This was followed up in the 19th when Robbie Ironside laid on a chance for Bredbury whose hooked shot was saved by Croatia keeper Dave Miller.

Barrett then showed his influence when he arrived late on a Steve Refenes' cross and his shot just cleared the bar.

He followed this up with a truly world class drive that came sizzling in from 30 metres to where Miller was alertly guarding the near post.

Miller dealt with the drive competently but must have had some wind knocked out of him by the speed of the ball.

On the stroke of half-time Refenes was again the provider on the left and his cross led to a

heart stopping scramble in the six yard box that was eventually cleared by the Croatian defenders.

The second half showed Olympic still dominant but Croatia dangerous on the counter-attack.

Croatian right midfielder Damien Mori was always dangerous and was involved in attacks in the 53rd and 56th.

Unfortunately for Croatia Josip Biskic shot wide and the other attack was blown when Branko Milosevic ballooned his header over the bar.

The promise in attack that Olympic had shown finally paid dividends in the 85th minute.

Bredbury received the ball on the left of the penalty area skirted the defence and slammed a shot on goal.

His first effort was blocked but he got to the rebound and slotted the ball away.

The ground was still buzzing from this goal when Olympic scored again.

Hristodolou played Refenes through on the

left and his low cross eluded the Croatian defence and substitute Grant Lee had the easiest of tap-ins at the far post.

The game was well and truly over when Croatia bagged a consolation goal on the very stroke of fulltime.

Hard working forward Francis Awaritefe fought hard to get to a through ball and roll it past Gary Meier into the Olympic net.

Everyone in the Olympic camp was ecstatic with the victory from coach Hickman to the small boys leaping up and down behind the goal.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett, Ironside, Hooker, Bernal, Phillips, Bredbury, Hristodolou, Nastevski (Lee 77m), Katalos, Refenes.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Donnelly, Talić, Selemedes, Hannah, Mori, Milosevic, Biskic, Davidson (Bacak 88m), Pondeleyak (Silic 56m), Awaritefe.

SCORERS: Bredbury 85m, Lee 88m for Olympic, Awaritefe 90m for Melbourne Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Davidson 77m for M. Croatia.

REFEREE: Tom McRoe.
CROWD: 4,692.
POINTS: Barrett 3, Mori 2, Bredbury 1.

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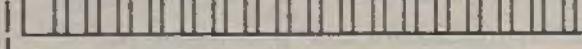
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Brisbane fight to share the points!



SYDNEY CROATIA 2
BRISBANE UTD 2

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

BRISBANE United staged a tenacious fight back to take a deserved point off Sydney Croatia after trailing twice in an explosive first quarter of an hour at Edenser Park on Sunday.

With an ounce of luck, the battling Brisbane side could have even grabbed a winner as they got right on top of Croatia during a courageous second half performance which left the home supporters wondering what might have been if Argentine striker Jose Iriarte had succeeded in putting away a golden opportunity eight minutes before the interval to open up a two goal cushion.

Croatia looked well on the way to winning their first home match of the season after captain Tony Krslovic opened the score just four minutes into the game.

Former Socceroo defender Alan Hunter made a mess of clearing the danger for United, allowing Krslovic to rob him of possession and beat keeper Mirko Runje with a powerful angled drive into the far corner.

Brisbane were looking totally disorganised at the back allowing Croatia winger Manis Lamond to find all the space he needed on the



left and send over his dangerous pinpoint crosses which gave his side much more penetration than it had shown in recent games.

But when youngster Chris Slater got United back on level terms in the 14th minute it was the Croatia defence which was guilty of slack marking.

A harmless ball into the box from defender Ibro Cahut found Slater near the penalty spot with all the time in the world to measure his shot and beat keeper Zeljko Kalac with very little difficulty.

Brisbane's joy only lasted a mere 60 seconds however, as Croatia hit back immediately.

Recent import Fadil Muriqi lashed out with a long range volley which Runje did well to stop but was helpless as Pedro Ricoy raced in and sneaked the rebound into the net to restore their lead.

At this stage there seemed little chance for Brisbane to stage another recovery as a fluent looking Croatia threatened to turn the contest into a one-sided affair.

Another thunderbolt from Krslovic forced a scrambling Runje to concede a corner, then, when central defender Steven Bullock was caught in possession by Iriarte in the 37th minute it looked curtains for Brisbane only for his delicate chip to narrowly clear the crossbar.



Mark Babic

Had Croatia gone to a 3-1 lead then, it would have been very doubtful if United could have made up the deficit after the interval.

This highly industrious Brisbane outfit were not about to let this lifeline go to waste however, and settled down during the second half to take the game right up to Croatia and dominate most of the proceedings.

Croatia for their part were beginning to show signs of panic and were fortunate not to concede an equaliser on the hour after Brisbane's Clayton Koch flung a perfect cross to an unmarked Jim McDonagh on the far post but he somehow managed to send his easy header well wide of the targets.

The inevitable equaliser finally arrived in the 77th minute. Slater made ground on the left and found Koch backtracking him up through the middle to collect a cle-

ver ball which wrong-footed the entire Croatia defence and slam past Kalac from the edge of the area.

The last few minutes were totally dominated by United as a visibly tiring Croatia managed to hang on for a draw which in the end they can possibly count themselves fortunate to get.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kacic, R Runje, Grbevski, Babic, Stipic, Stanton, Iriarte (Zizic 89m), Ricoy, Krslovic, Muriqi, Lamond (Jurin 80m).

BRISBANE UTD: M Runje, Gwynne, Cahut, Hunter, Mengotti, Bullock, McDonagh (Jorgensen 62m), Halligan, Pimblett, Slater (Cranney 83m), Koch.

SCORERS: Krslovic 4m, Ricoy 15m for Croatia. Slater 14m, Koch 77m for Brisbane.

YELLOW CARDS: Ricoy 65m for Croatia. Cahut 25m for Brisbane.

REFEREE: Ziggy Mnich.

CROWD: 1,895. **POINTS:** Stipic 3, Pimblett 2, Slater 1.

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Bundalo's class telling factor



WOLLONGONG 1
HEIDELBERG 0

BY ALBERT MARTINEZ

IT took a touch of class by Wolves midfielder Alex Bundalo to break the scoreless deadlock and give Wollongong City a 1-0 win over Heidelberg United at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Bundalo, Wollongong's \$27,000 signing from Apia scored with a brilliantly taken free-kick in the 77th minute to secure the two points for the homeside.

When the Wolves were awarded a free kick about 23 metres from goal in centre field, Bundalo stepped up and curled the ball through the wall into the bottom left hand corner of the goal.

Heidelberg's former Socceroo goalkeeper Jeff Olver could only watch as the ball sailed past him into the net.

"It wasn't that far out and I thought if I just hit it one metre from the post it should go in because Olver was right on the other post," Bundalo said.

"I tried to keep it low so he wouldn't see it until late and one of the guys in the wall moved his head and the ball went through the wall and into the net."



ALEX BUNDALO

face of the goal.

While Bundalo may have been the match winner Horsley was the best player on the ground.

Full on running for the entire 90 minutes in both attack and defence, Horsley's enterprising forays down the right flank were always a danger for Heidelberg.

Heidelberg were always going to find it tough to crack a Wollongong defence that had only conceded one goal in six games.

Paul Lewis, Angie Goutzoulis and the fleet-footed Brian McNichol did their best on the Heidelberg counter-attack but they usually found Mike O'Shea and Richard Lloyd more than equal to the task.

Heidelberg coach Gary Cole said he knew it would be a tall order to win in Wollongong.

"But to lose in that way with the ball going through the wall that's very disappointing," Cole said. "It's terrible to come all that way and lose to a goal like that."

WOLLONGONG CITY: Filan, Green, Hollifield, Horsley, Lloyd, O'Shea, Bundalo, Skeen, Bate, Hagan, Smith (Brodnik 67m).

HEIDELBERG: Olver, Brattan, Scott, Hodgson, Cranney, Stubbins, Hunter (Slifkas 79m), McNichol, Goutzoulis, Lewis, Iliopoulos.

SCORERS: Bundalo 77m for Wollongong.

YELLOW CARDS: Goutzoulis 21m, Brattan 72m for Heidelberg.

REFEREE: Gordon Dunster.

CROWD: 2,398.

POINTS: Horsley 3, Lloyd 2, Hodgson 1.

Penalty miss cost Preston



PRESTON 0
MELITA EAGLES 0

BY GREG BLAKE

STRUGGLING Parramatta Melita Eagles survived a penalty miss by Preston before coming within an ace of victory in a scoreless draw over disappointing Makedonia at windswept Connor Reserve on Sunday.

The Eagles, playing downwind after the break, carved slices out of Makedonia's undermanned midfield and only some typically dour defending from Shaun Parton and injured skipper Steve Jackson's stand-in, Ian Roodhouse, stopped Melita from grabbing its opening win of the season.

The crucial penalty miss came six minutes after half time after Warren Spink's sharp turn had caught the Eagles defence out and veteran Robbie Wheatley was left to up-end the Preston striker as he thundered into the area.

"We just need to be more direct".

Not that the game was all bad news for Makedonia.

The home side, particularly before the knee injury which claimed speedster Lou Bekiaris, had done enough to claim its share of the spoils.

McPherson saved his side three times before the interval, throwing out his left hand to stop Kris Trajanovski early, pushing a header by the same player against the woodwork on the half hour, and pulling off a fine stop from George Petrov less than two minutes later.

Those stops, and the dramatic penalty save, seemed to sap the confidence of a Preston side which had started the match in overdrive following its mid-week cup trouncing of South Melbourne.

"McPherson pulled off some great saves which made the difference", said a disappointed John Gardiner after the game.

"But the club has to stand behind this side because I really believe that the longer they are together, the better they will get".

PRESTON: Traianidis, Spasevski, Stojevski, Roodhouse, Parton, Petrov, Bekiaris (Ristevski 76), Spink, J. Markovac (McAfee 60), Zinni.

MELITA: McPherson, Gomez, Cianer, O'Donnell, Wheatley, Callanan, Vial, Giminez, Soper (Nowicki 85), El Ali (Reda 56), Genc.

GOALS: Nill. **YELLOW CARDS:** Nill.

REFEREE: E. Brazzale. **CROWD:** 1800. **VOTES:** 3 - Giminez (ME), 2 - Roodhouse (PM), 1 - Callanan (ME).

Preston's stand-in captain Andrew Zinni put the spot-kick to the feet of Eagles keeper Alex McPherson and the giant custodian, without taking a stride, snapped up his chance to save the game.

Buoyed by McPherson's heroics, Melita emerged as a different side for the closing half hour of action.

With wide men Aytec Genc and Lenny Vial getting forward at every opportunity, the field opened up by the workman-like Andrew Callanan and brilliant, barnstorming Hugo Giminez.

Giminez, in particular, cut a swathe through the Preston midfield, whilst substitute Micheal Reda played his part in a remarkable comeback by the league's basement side.

Reda produced Melita's best chance with just 20 minutes remaining as he slipped past Roodhouse only to see his shot sent spinning wide by the diving Phil Traianidis.

As players converged on the loose ball only a superhuman second effort by the Preston keeper saw him sprawl at the feet of the ruck to claim the ball safely.

Despite the encouraging comeback the display left Eagles coach Raul Blanco lamenting at the lack of confidence in his side.

"The problem is that there is a lack of confidence in players taking the responsibility to shoot", said Blanco.

"But I suppose that is to be expected after just one point from our previous four matches.



Penalty miss: Andrew Zinni.

Champs get to base after early battle



STH MELBOURNE 3
WEST ADELAIDE 0

BY CON STAVROS

REIGNING champs South Melbourne Hellas had to fight long and hard to finally shake off a clinging West Adelaide on the weekend.

South Melbourne looked set for another home ground rout in the opening minutes as Kimon Taliadoros flung himself at a Peter Tsolakis cross in the second minute that sent the ball crashing into the back of the net.

The visitors showing character however almost pulled back the equalizer within moments of the re-start as Robbie Slager's speculative drive from twenty metres was well saved by a lunging Bruce Maclarens.

Maclarens, facing a stiff breeze was well tested in the first period by a number of long range efforts by the Sharks, but met each challenge perfectly and ultimately gave Hellas their second consecutive clean sheet this season.

South's were forced to draft Paul Fernandes from the transfer list back into the heart of the defence for this encounter, following the hamstring injury sustained by Steve Blair in a mid-week NSL Cup fixture. Blair, who will miss some 4-6 weeks was well covered by the dependable Fernandes in this fixture.

Whilst the unlucky Gary Hasler just missed giving South Melbourne an extended lead in the 24th minute with his customary powerful left foot shot, West Adelaide through Jim Keramidis missed a golden opportunity to level terms in the 37th minute.

Keramidis in a one on one with the goalkeeper after a goalmouth scramble saw his shot



KIM TALIADOROS

well parried by Maclarens.

Whilst the first half was even, the second period featuring South Melbourne playing with the wind was anything but a contest.

Playmaker Mike Petersen moved up a gear and with the bustling figures of Paul Wade and Hasler, the home side strangled the visiting Sharks' midfield game.

A flurry of chances in the opening quarter hour were agonizingly close for the Middle Park faithful, particularly Hasler's shot against the post in the 55th minute, which immediately followed a shot and header by Petersen that were both cleared by the now frantic West Adelaide defence.

Further chaos for the Sharks' defence in the 65th minute as sweeper Claudio Canosa received his marching orders after collecting two yellow cards in the space of five minutes for late tackles. The second offence which led to the automatic dismissal saw Taliadoros brought down crudely as he ran at speed towards goal.

Abandoning the need for a sweeper altogether, West Adelaide pushed forward desperate for an equalizer despite being a man short. Substitutes Massimo Capasso and particularly Mario Perucho looked dangerous after coming on and the Hellas defence could afford no respite.

Adrian Santrac looked good in patches and his experience came to the fore in orchestrating a number of quick counter attacking mo-

ves midway through the second period.

Justice finally however for South's towards the end as Peter Tsolakis finished off a neat move in the 82nd minute and then just three minutes later set up Taliadoros for his second and South Melbourne's third.

South who appear almost invincible at Middle Park had their defensive worries increased however as Mehmet Durakovic was replaced by Danny Wright in the 75th minute. Durakovic had moments earlier clashed with Santrac in a sliding tackle and had received bruising to his back.

Taliadoros's two goal haul clearly signals him as a genuine contender for the NSL's golden

boot this season, whilst his strike-gun partner Paul Trimble is finally showing the form that makes him one of this country's best.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Maclarens, Healy, Postecoglou, Durakovic (Wright 75m), Fernandes, Wade, Taliadoros (Michalakopoulos 87), Petersen, Trimble, Hasler, Tsolakis.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Mills, Hiern, Canosa (Sent Off 65m), Slager, Stamatelopoulos, Keramidis (Capasso 58m), Brazzale, Briscoe (Perucho 58m), Santrac, Blair.

SCORERS: Taliadoros 2m and 85m and Tsolakis 82m for South Melbourne.

YELLOW CARDS: Hasler 71m for South Melbourne. Canosa 60m for West Adelaide.

RED CARD: Canosa 65m for West Adelaide.

REFEREE: David Mortimer

CROWD: Approx 3500

VOTES: 3 - M. Petersen (SM), 2 - P. Trimble (SM), 1 - P. Tsolakis (SM).

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Olympic call could put cat amongst pigeons!

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

FOLLOWING an unpredictable opening five rounds of the season, this weekend's fixtures could throw the NSL into further turmoil.

Many of the country's young stars will be on duty with the Olympic squad, and four clubs have the added burden of midweek NSL cup ties to recover from by the weekend.

Already a casualty has been the expected sizzler between entertainers South Melbourne and Marconi, whilst Zoran Matic's Adelaide City appear to be the worst hit, missing Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart for the Fiji assignment.

League leaders City, travel across enemy state lines to face the gritty Heidelberg.

The Bergers, who have lost three of their last four starts will miss George Slifkas (Fiji), but have tasted defeat just twice in 12 matches at the Village against the Zebras down the years.

Missing Veart and Vidmar, could prove too tough for Matic's men, and at the Village the Bergers should snare a point.

Unbeaten Wollongong journey to Victoria for the first time this season, to take on fellow title chasers Melbourne Croatia at Somers St.

The previously unbeaten Croatia will be keen to get their show back on the road after falling unexpectedly in the final minutes at Olympic at the weekend.

However, the home side could struggle with Damian Mori due to leave for Fiji, added to the untimely injuries to key men Andrew Marth and Ivan Kelic.

Indeed the Melbourne attack looked somewhat thin without the deadly finishing of Kelic, and Ken Murphy's troops obviously missed the powerful Marth at the back, as Steve Refenes and co. proceeded to run rings around the league leaders.

The Wolves on the other hand could welcome Claude Cellini and Charlie Yankos back into the league's tightest defence, while John Filan's call up for National duty will be amply covered by the talented Tony Pezzano.

The visitors, who have conceded just one goal in six league and cup matches to date, and on the road have won two out of two, adding six goals to their tally, should be worth at least a point.

Sydney Olympic visit Perry Park for the first time, minus Steve Refenes, for the clash with fellow top five fringe dwellers Brisbane United.

With Refenes another casualty of the Fiji mission, Grant Lee should get the nod into the Olympic front line.

The visitors picked up the pieces following below par efforts against Marconi and Heidelberg, to knock off previously unsullied leaders Melbourne Croatia on Sunday, and will prove a difficult test for sixth placed United.

Although the home side are unbeaten in their two previous



Steve Refenes

starts at home, they have conceded five goals in their last two outings and host APIA midweek, in an NSL cup first round tie.

Brisbane will be difficult to toss on their home patch this season, and although Olympic look to be back in business, a draw appears likely.

Revitalised APIA and Sydney Croatia meet at Leichhardt Oval this Sunday, with both clubs facing difficult midweek away cup ties as a lead up to the important clash.

With Mark Babic and Mark Bosnich (Croatia), and John Gibson (APIA) all on Olympic duty, and APIA's John McQuarrie out suspended, the two squads must be reshuffled, particularly if the clubs pick up further injuries on Wednesday.

Although Croatia have won six of the eight matches at APIA, the home side should take the spoils following their improved form of late, that has seen the Leichhardt club win in its last two starts, following the 6-1 drubbing at South Melbourne.

In other matches, draws look likely when the winless West Adelaide and Parramatta Melita host Preston and Newcastle respectively.

Urukalo's double!

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Alistair Edwards.

MICHAEL URUKALO, coach of Johore completed an 'historic double' last Saturday night when he won the 25th Malaysian Cup Final, downing Kenny Worden's Selengor 3-1 at the Merdeka Stadium, Kuala Lumpur.

The match was a sell-out with a capacity crowd of 45,000 with gate-takings a record \$260,000.

The fierce battle was played in heavy rain that turned the pitch into an almost unplayable surface.

But it had little effect on Johore's tenacity to win the match.

Urukalo, Apia's former NSL coach, not only became the first foreign coach to win the League Championship, but now is also the first coach in Malaysian Football history to have won the League as well as the prestigious Cup Final.

Yugoslavia's youth international midfielder, Erwin Boban starred by scoring all the goals for Johore in the 10th, 60th and 83rd minutes.

Abbas Saad, Sydney Olympic's fiery striker missed the Cup Final through suspension after an urgent appeal for him to play was rejected by F.A.M.

Alistair Edwards, also a former Sydney Olympic player, set up Boban's first goal.

Boban completed his hattrick seven minutes from fulltime when he scored with a magnificent free-kick beating former Czechoslovakia's 1982 World Cup goalkeeper, Karel Stromfik, from a free-kick.

Former Socceroo centre-back, Robbie Dunne, playing for Selengor, was booked in the 38th minute for a crude tackle.

Boban whose wife presented him with a baby son two weeks ago, maintained that the birth of his new son was a lucky omen for him in the Cup Final.

Selengor equalised through Mohammad Gini in the 53rd minute, but Johore pressed ahead seven minutes later to 2-1.

Urukalo stated after the match:

"We won because we played the better football."

Melita go to top of Youth League

ROUND 5 of the National Youth League saw Melita move to the top of the leader board, while Apia moved closer to the leaders with their second win on the trot.

Apia continued its good form of late when they downed Newcastle Breakers in a very tight and tough match. Both sides were fairly evenly matched and it was a good effort from Australian Youth Team squad member, Derek Poimer, which separated the sides, too finish at the 1-0 scoreline to Apia.

Probably the most interesting match in the Round's program was going to be the game between Sydney Croatia and the AIS. (However, the match turned into a fairly dull affair with neither side able to gain the upper hand.

The AIS who had an extra man for almost an hour at the match after Sydney Croatia's, Mario Jerman was sent off, could not get the better of Croatia's defence and when the AIS, Goran Lozanoushi, was sent from the field near the end of the game, it saw the score eventually stay at 0-0.

Melita Eagles match

winning streak increased to five matches when they defeated Wollongong Macedonia 4-1. (The Wollongong side had no answer to Melita's all out attacking style which could have seen a few more goals except for last ditch defence and some waisted opportunities. Melita striker Ari Triantalyiou had a good game netting two goals while Alan Stayu and Frank Suratore each scored one goal for Melita.

Sydney Olympic also stayed in touch with the leaders when they had a lucky 1-0 victory over a very determined Croatia Colts side. The game seemed headed for a 0-0 draw when in the 86th minute, pounced on a loose ball to strike home the winner.

Wollongong City scored a goal either side at half-time to defeat bottom placed St George 2-0. Wollongong took an early lead when striker Jason Oldridge struck home in the 5th minute. It wasn't until the 75th minute that Wollongong City ensured their victory when Saru Dimoski scored.

A very exciting first half saw the goals coming thick and fast in the match between Highfields Azzurri and Marconi. Highfields

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THIS WEEKS' GAMES

ROUND 6 – W/ending November 10

Brisbane United	v Sydney Olympic
West Adelaide	v Preston Makedonia
Apia Leichhardt	v Sydney Croatia
Melita Eagles	v Newcastle BHP
Heidelberg Utd	v Adelaide City
Melbourne Croatia	v Wollongong City

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SOCER

POOLS

THE
POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 328

SAT. 9th NOVEMBER, 1991

ENGLISH DIVISION 2	
BARNESLEY	BRISTOL R.
BRIGHTON	MIDDLESBRO
BRISTOL C.	SUNDERLAND
IPSWICH	CAMBRIDGE U.
NEWCASTLE	GRIMSBY
PORTSMOUTH	OXFORD UTD.
PORT VALE	MILLWALL
SOUTHEND	SWINDON
WATFORD	LEICESTER
WOLVES	DERBY
BRENTFORD	WIGAN A.
BURY	BOLTON
EXETER	STOKE
HARTLEPOOL	FULHAM
HUDDERSFIELD	BIRMINGHAM
HULL	CHESTER
PETERBORO	BRADFORD C.
PRESTON	DARLINGTON
READING	WEST BROM.
TORQUAY	LEYTON O.
BARNET	HALIFAX
BURNLEY	MANSFIELD
CHESTERFIELD	BLACKPOOL
CREWE	WREXHAM
GILLINGHAM	MAIDSTONE
HEREFORD	ROCHDALE
NORTHAMPTON	LINCOLN
SCARBORO	CARLISLE
SCUNTHORPE	ROTHERHAM
FLEETWOOD	BISHOP AUK.
GAINSBORO	MOSLEY
LEEK	SOUTHPORT
MARINE	WHITLEY BAY
MORECAMBE	HORWICH
CHELMSFORD	GLoucester
DARTFORD	WORCESTER
DOVER	MOOR GREEN
FISHER ATH.	BROMSGROVE

RESERVE MATCHES

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	ENGLISH DIVISION 1
HALESOWEN	CRAWLEY
TROWBRIDGE	CORBY
CELTIC	ABERDEEN
DUNDEE U.	HIBERNIAN
DUNFERMLINE	RANGERS
FALKIRK	ST. MIRREN
HEARTS	S. JOHNSTONE
MOTHERWELL	AIRDRIE
HAMILTON	DUNDEE
KILMARNOCK	MEADOWBANK
MONTROSE	CLYDEBANK
MORTON	FORFAR
RAITH	AYR
STIRLING A.	PARTICK
ALLOA	ALBION R.
BERWICK	DUMBARTON
BRECHIN	STENH'MUIR

*BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

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MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 327

SAT. 2nd NOVEMBER 1991

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	
ARSENAL	WEST HAM
COVENTRY	CHELSEA
LIVERPOOL	CRYSTAL P.
LUTON	EVERTON
MAN. UTD.	SHEFF. UTD.
NORWICH	NOTTINGHAM F.
NOTT'S. C.	OLDHAM
Q.P.R.	ASTON VILLA
SHEFF. WED.	TOTTENHAM
SOUTHAMPTON	MAN. CITY
WIMBLEDON	LEEDS
BLACKBURN	BRIGHTON
BRISTOL R.	PORT VALE
CAMBRIDGE U.	BRISTOL C.
DERBY	TRANMERE
GRIMSBY	CHARLTON
LEICESTER	IPSWICH
MIDDLESBRO	SOUTHEND
MILLWALL	PORTSMOUTH
OXFORD UTD.	BARNESLEY
PLYMOUTH	WOLVES
SUNDERLAND	WATFORD
SWINDON	NEWCASTLE
BIRMINGHAM	TORQUAY
BOLTON	READING
BRADFORD C.	BRENTFORD
CHESTER	PRESTON
DARLINGTON	HARTLEPOOL
FULHAM	HULL
LEYTON O.	EXETER
SHREWSBURY	PETERBORO
STOKE	HUDDERSFIELD
WEST BROM.	BURY
BLACKPOOL	SCARBORO
CARDIFF	SCUNTHORPE
CARLISLE	GILLINGHAM
HALIFAX	BURNLEY
LINCOLN	ALDERSHOT



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 2/11/91 — WEEK 327

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
36	39	47	28	36	60	40	59	51	67	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
61	67	57	64	63	56	64	52	53	63	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
62	67	65	60	60	64	60	78	72	84	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
66	64	66	75	71	81	66	65			8	3	0	0	0	3	4	5		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools.

RESULTS OF
WEEK 327 SAT NOVEMBER 2, 1991

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
13, 17, 25, 33, 34, 35.
Supplementary Number: 19.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Arsenal 0 West Ham 1, Coventry 0 Chelsea 1, Liverpool 1 Crystal Palace 2, Luton 0 Everton 1, Manchester United 2 Sheffield United 0, Norwich 0, Nottingham Forest 0, Notts County 2 Oldham 0, Queen's Park Rangers 0 Aston Villa 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0, Tottenham 0, Southampton 0, Manchester City 3, Wimbledon 0, Leeds 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackburn 1 Brighton 0, Bristol Rovers 3 Port Vale 3, Cambridge United 0, Bristol City 0, Derby 0, Tranmere 1, Grimsby 1, Charlton 0, Leicester 2, Ipswich 2, Middlesbrough 1, Southend 1, Millwall 1, Portsmouth 1, Oxford 0, Barnsley 1, Plymouth 1, Wolverhampton 0, Sunderland 3, Watford 1, Swindon 2, Newcastle 1.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Aberdeen 0 Dundee United 1, Airdrieonians 0, Falkirk 0, Hibernian 1, Hearts 1, Rangers 1, Celtic 1, St Johnstone 3, Dunfermline 2, St Mirren 1, Motherwell 2.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Birmingham 3, Torquay 0, Bolton 1, Reading 1, Bradford 0, Brentford 1, Chester 3, Preston 2, Darlington 4, Hartlepool 0, Fulham 0, Hull 0, Leyton Orient 1, Exeter 0, Shrewsbury 2, Peterborough 0, Stoke 0, Huddersfield 2, West Bromwich 1, Bury 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

Blackpool 1, Scarborough 1, Cardiff 2, Scunthorpe 2, Carlisle 0, Gillingham 0, Halifax 0, Burnley 2, Lincoln 0, Aldershot 0, Middlesbrough 3, Hereford 2, Mansfield 2, Doncaster 2, Rochdale 3, Chesterfield 3, Rotherham 1, Northampton 0, Wrexham 1, Barnet 0, York 2, Walsall 0.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Ayr 0 Kilmarnock 3, Clydebank 3, Morton 1, Dundee 1, Raith 1, Forfar 2, Montrose 2, Meadowbank 0, Stirling 1, Partick 1, Hamilton 1.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Alloa 0 Brechin postponed, Arbroath 2, Albion 1, Dumbarton 3, Queens Park 1, East Fife 1, Clyde 2, East Stirling 2, Stranraer 2, Queen of the South 3, Cowdenbeath 3, Stenhousemuir 0, Berwick 2.

DIADORA LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

St Albans 1, Windsor/Eton 2, Wivenhoe 2, Hendon 1, Woking 2, Staines 2, Wokingham 0, Bishop's Stortford 0.

NORTHERN IRISH LEAGUE

Ards 3, Cliftonville 0, Ballyclare 2, Carrick 2, Coleraine 3, Bangor 0, Crusaders 0, Distillery 1, Glenavon 0, Glentoran 2, Larne 1, Newry 0, Linfield 1, Ballymena 0, Omagh 0, Portadown 1, Tandragee 0.

ENGLISH 1ST DIV

Manchester United 14, 9, 4, 1, 23, 7, 31
Leeds 15, 8, 6, 1, 25, 12, 30
Manchester City 15, 9, 4, 1, 25, 17, 28
Sheffield Wednesday 15, 7, 4, 4, 26, 18, 25
Arsenal 14, 7, 3, 3, 24, 19, 24
Aston Villa 14, 7, 3, 3, 24, 15, 24
Crystal Palace 14, 7, 3, 3, 24, 20, 24
Chesterfield 14, 7, 3, 3, 24, 15, 24
Liverpool 15, 6, 5, 2, 23, 12, 20
Coventry 15, 6, 5, 2, 23, 12, 20
Everton 15, 4, 4, 2, 21, 21, 19
Wimbledon 15, 4, 4, 2, 22, 18, 18
West Ham 15, 4, 4, 2, 22, 18, 18
Notts County 15, 5, 5, 2, 19, 25, 18
Tottenham 12, 5, 5, 2, 18, 17, 17
Nottingham Forest 14, 5, 5, 2, 24, 24, 17
Oldham 14, 4, 3, 2, 19, 22, 15
Queens Park Rangers 15, 3, 6, 14, 21, 15
Southampton 15, 3, 6, 14, 21, 15
Luton 15, 2, 4, 9, 8, 31, 10
Sheffield United 15, 2, 3, 10, 20, 33, 9

ENGLISH 2ND DIV

Middlesbrough 16, 9, 3, 4, 21, 12, 30
Swindon 14, 9, 2, 3, 32, 17, 29
Cambridge 14, 9, 2, 3, 26, 16, 29
Charlton 14, 8, 4, 4, 23, 16, 28
Leicester 16, 7, 7, 2, 26, 22, 28
Derby 15, 8, 2, 3, 22, 21, 26
Blackburn 14, 7, 3, 4, 19, 14, 24
Bristol City 15, 5, 6, 4, 18, 21, 21
Southend 15, 5, 5, 5, 18, 18, 20
Portsmouth 14, 5, 5, 4, 14, 14, 20
Grimsby 14, 6, 2, 6, 20, 22, 20
Millwall 15, 5, 4, 6, 24, 22, 19
Tranmere 14, 4, 7, 3, 19, 17, 19
Sunderland 15, 5, 4, 6, 28, 27, 19
Wolves 14, 5, 4, 5, 18, 18, 19
Port Vale 16, 4, 6, 6, 18, 21, 18
Barnsley 16, 5, 2, 9, 16, 24, 27
Watford 15, 5, 1, 9, 16, 21, 16
Brighton 16, 4, 3, 9, 20, 28, 15

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

AROUND AND ABOUT THE NSL

NSL CUP ACTION

WOLLONGONG CITY 1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

BY ALBERT MARTINEZ

ALTHOUGH spectators stayed away in their hundreds, Wollongong City mustered enough enthusiasm to beat Sydney Olympic 1-0 in their first round NSL Cup tie at Brandon Park last week.

Whether an entry fee of \$10, a cool spring evening or a lack of pre-match publicity were to blame, only 670 paying patrons watched two of the NSL pacesetters go into action.

Both clubs fielded teams with a number of changes from the previous weekend's matches.

Olympic were without goal-scoring sensation Tim Bredbury as well as Gary Philips, Grant Lee and Zlatko Nastevski.

The Wolves took the field with virtually a different backline after losing goalkeeper John Filan, defenders Mike O'Shea, David Green, Mike Hollifield and captain David Green.

A shaky Wolves backline took time to come to grips with the enthusiastic running of Pablo Cardoza and Ja-

No real cup interest!



son Bennett.

But despite their territorial advantage in the first-half Olympic could not find a clear passage to goal.

It was left to Wolves striker Kevin Hagan to break the deadlock four minutes from half-time.

Hagan received a pass from Mike Smith inside the box on the left and showing great composure, switched the ball onto his right foot and then calmly curled the ball around Olympic goalkeeper Gary Meier into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

After the break Wollongong looked a more confident outfit as their defence sorted out the positional problems and looked at getting forward.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano, Cellini (H/T Sharpley), Lloyd, Horsley, Yankos, Morland, Bandallo, Hagan (58min Oldridge), Bate, Brodnik, Smith.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett (H/T Sorras), Ironside, Hooker, Bernal, Augerinos, Tsekenis, Hristodolou, Cardoza, Katalos, Bennett (77min Reffes).

SCORER: Hagan 41min.

YELLOW CARDS: Barrett 33min, Tsekenis 21min (Sydney Olympic).

REFEREE: Emmanuel Loupis.

CROWD: 670

MELBOURNE CROATIA 3
HEIDELBERG 1

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE Croatia paid the price for mid-week opening round NSL Cup success when it lost goal-ace Ivan Kelic and defensive king-pin Andrew Marth with injury during its 3-1 defeat of Heidelberg under lights at Olympic Park last Wednesday night.

Kelic had his jaw broken in two places and lost two teeth in a clash which left the Croatia camp fuming and the club top scorer is unlikely to play again for at least 12 weeks.

Marth has torn a quadricep muscle and is sidelined for at least four weeks.

Croatia rested Francis Awaritefe and skipper Jo Biskic for the cup clash but the match unearthed two prospective senior stars in former St Albans striker Ollie Pondeljak and youth team star Joe Bacak.

This livewire pair shared the spoils against the Bergers, with Pondeljak grabbing Croatia's opening goal and Bacak, off the

bench early, grabbing a double strike late in the match.

Pondeljak struck after just six minutes, scoring in Paul Trimble-like fashion as he turned swiftly to rifle home a shot from the right-hand corner of the penalty box.

Heidelberg keeper Jeff Olver did well to stop Kelic as the lanky striker ran one-on-one at him in the 22nd minute as the match developed into a hit-and-miss affair with the rain tumbling down.

Croatia survived a mini-rivalry by the Bergers before pulling away, Mark Silic hitting the crossbar in the 70th minute before Bacak made it 2-0 just minutes later.

Damian Mori was denied by the woodwork in the 81st minute as Croatia pulled away but Phil Stubbins, with a super individual effort, grabbed a goal back for the Bergers against the run of play with six minutes remaining.

With four minutes left on the clock, young Silic made the match safe for Croatia with his second goal of the night, his shot from 16 metres deflecting past Olver and into the net.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Donnelly, Talačić, Selemidis, Hannah, Marth (Silic 17), Milosevic,

Mori, Davidson, Kelic (Bacak 26), Pondeljak.

HEIDELBERG: Olver, Bratten, Scott, Hodges, Cranney, Stubbins, Goutzioulis, Hunter, MacNicol, Michalidis, Lewis (Iliopoulos 69).

REFEREE: J. Fraser.
CROWD: 3723 (double-header).

PRESTON 4
STH MELBOURNE 2

BY GREG BLAKE

SOUTH Melbourne's dreams of a league and cup double came to an emphatic end at the hands of a determined Preston last Wednesday night as Makedonia ran away to a 4-2 win in the first round knock-out clash under lights at Olympic Park.

Preston led after 22 minutes, with skipper Steve Jackson pouncing to make it 1-0 as he pushed home a rebound after a Kris Trajanovski effort had rocked the Hellas crossbar.

Eight minutes later, last year's defeated cup finalist made it 2-0 when a speculative Lou Bekiaris shot was parried by Souths keeper Bruce Maclare and Warren Spink was on hand to put the loose ball away.

Souths staged a mini-rivalry as Kimon Taliadoros hit the crossbar with a 35th minute header, and then Paul Wade squandered a penalty, following a handball decision against John Waddell, as his spot kick was brilliantly pushed wide by Preston's stand-in custodian Sean Keogh.

Without him Hellas struggled and Preston took in a 2-0 half time lead and then weathered a spirited Souths revival before running out easy winners.

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Hellas staged a mini-rivalry as Kimon Taliadoros hit the crossbar with a 35th minute header, and then Paul Wade squandered a penalty, following a handball decision against John Waddell, as his spot kick was brilliantly pushed wide by Preston's stand-in custodian Sean Keogh.

Hellas finally pulled

one back in the 53rd minute as Paul Trimble stole in to rob Waddell in the area and score from close range.

But under-rated Preston speedster Lou Bekiaris made the game safe when he scored a fine goal on the hour, turning swiftly on the edge of the box before angling a centimetre-perfect shot inside the far post.

Bekiaris struck again three minutes later to put South Melbourne out of the race with substitute Con Boutsianis managing a final consolation goal for South Melbourne 16 minutes from full time.

PRESTON: Keogh, Spasovski, Stojcevski, Jackson (Petrov 30), Parton, Roodhouse, Bekiaris, Trajanovski, Spink, Waddell, Zinni.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Maclare, Healy, Postecoglou, Durakovic, Blair (Boutsianis 8), Wade, Taliadoros, Wright, Trimble, Hasler, Tsolakis.

REFEREE: Z. Mnich.
CROWD: 3723 (double-header).

Nice and easy for City

ADELAIDE CITY 1
WEST ADELAIDE 0

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City eased into the semi-finals of the NSL Cup on Wednesday with a 1-0 win over local rival West Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium.

City now meets the winner of the Preston-Melbourne Croatia clash in the semis on March 9 after receiving a quarter-final bye.

Defensive misfortune separated West and City.

Reinstated Jimmy Keramidas said after the game he had been

unsighted over a good Joe Mullen centre in just nine minutes.

The ball hit him on the shoulder and rebounded into the path of Steve Maxwell, who left stand-in goalkeeper Chris Tsolideridis with no chance.

Tsolideridis only had been drafted into the team round at the eleventh hour after Peter Blazincic withdrew with an ankle injury.

He and City Robert Zabica were stand-out players. Tsolideridis had a string of brave saves and Socceroo Zabica produced the magic moment of the evening with a finger tipper in 70 minutes to deny impressive Eddie Briscoe.

"This was more like a practice game. Once we

got 1-0 up we had the game under control," City coach Zoran Matic said later.

West coach Nick Pantaras said: "I think we just had the edge in the second-half after an even first."

"We were competitive but again conceded a silly early goal that was costly."

Raymond Blair of West and City's Paul Shillabeer picked up bookings.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Melta, Tapai (Aloisi 60), Brooks (Barbaro 83), Mullen, Maxwell, Ilic.

WEST ADELAIDE — Tsolideridis, Mills, Hiern, Slager, Canosa, Keramidas, Vatsillas, Brazza, Briscoe, Santrac, Blair (Perucho 78).

Brisbane seek fans

BRISBANE United officials are hoping Saturday night games will be the key to boosting home attendances for the rest of the National Soccer League season.

The fledgling NSL team have drawn 2500 spectators to each of their home games so far this season.

But United chairman Clem Jones said the

club was banking on Saturday night fixtures to boost spectator interest.

"The team has had a marvellous start to the season and there is a tremendous spirit in the team," he said.

"I think Saturday night games will attract a lot more people because people's entertainment habits are not as rigid as in the daytime."

United's first Satur-

day night fixture is this week against Sydney Olympic at Perry Park.

Jones said Saturday night games would be marketed as "family nights".

"I'm optimistic that crowds will improve when we go to playing on Saturday nights," he said.

"The emphasis will be on making the games family nights where parents can bring their kids."

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR mighty Marconi, currently going through its toughest spell in a decade, recovery might mean getting away from Marconi Stadium, or even NSW for that matter.

For the history books show that Marconi is clearly the best interstate traveller in the NSL.

It was interesting to note Frank Scicluna's ABSW piece last week (2910) on Marconi's abysmal recent home record of recent times.

In contrast, we thought it intriguing to find out just where teams travel best when journeying out of their home states.

And the record clearly shows that Marconi is the best team in the NSL when it goes on 'on the road' around the country.

Marconi has a remarkable record of

success when travelling interstate, a record which eclipses that of any other current NSL club.

In its NSL history the 'Green Machine' has played 90 league games out of NSW (to the end of round 4 this season), winning a remarkable 45 of those games.

That 50 percent success rate is streets ahead of the next-ranked club, Melbourne Croatia, which has won 23 of 55 matches outside Victoria since joining the league in 1984.

In complete contrast, Preston is far and away the worst victim of travel sickness.

The Connor Reserve boys have managed just 15 wins from 91 outings outside Victoria since taking up NSL membership in 1981, a winning rating of a miserly 16.48 percent.

Marconi apparently revels in travelling south to Victoria, where it has won 29 of 54 games since 1977.

However, Preston apparently loathes the

Olympic qualifiers will not be easy!



BY LOU GAUTIER

NEW Zealand will be much better prepared than Australia when the Oceania Olympic qualifiers kicks off in Fiji this week.

While the Olyroos have had no preparation whatsoever, with the cancellation of their proposed European tour in June/July, the Kiwis played twice in Queensland en route to Fiji and have also toured New Caledonia.

No wonder coach Eddie Thomson is worried.

He should be.

Despite Australia's three victories at home against New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea and Fiji, the return games in the sweltering heat of Fiji will be no sinecure, especially the match against New Zealand, who always lift their game against

Australian opposition in any sport.

New Zealand will meet Fiji this Thursday, November 7, and then have a six-day break before meeting Australia in their second match on November 13.

The Aussies will have met Papua New Guinea on November 11, and they end their Oceania qualifiers against host country Fiji on November 16.

The Fijians, with an eye to getting maximum advantage by playing in conditions that favour them, have scheduled 3pm kick-offs when the heat and humidity will be exhausting.

But there's nothing wrong with that — all home sides make sure they enjoy the full benefit of playing at home, unlike Australia which must be the only country in the world which goes out of their way to be hospitable hosts.

They will play a

Just remember Scotland in 1985, when the Australian Soccer Federation, instead of scheduling the World Cup play-off in stifling heat, with a noon kickoff, elected to play in the freshness of a Melbourne evening, in conditions that suited the Scots perfectly!

Only in Australia

home-and-away series with the best non-qualified from Europe.

The European countries are now engaged in qualifying matches in eight groups.

The winners of each group will meet in home-and-away quarter-finals, the winners of which will qualify for the finals in Barcelona in July 1992.

The best loser of the quarter-finals will then meet the winner of Oceania.

This is certain to be the scenario now that Israel appear to have lost the chance of winning Group 8.

The Oceania winners would have played them in the play-offs had they won their Group 8 in Europe, but Sweden appear certain to win that group now.

If Australia take out Oceania the very costly play-off against European opposition will be held only six weeks before the Olympics kick-off, on July 24.

Australia's task against the likes of Czechoslovakia, Italy, Germany, Poland or Sweden will be very, very difficult, if not impossible.

Only the best preparation for the Olyroos will do.

So far only one opponent has been arranged for the team should it win Oceania — South Korea, in January.

Unless the ASF is prepared to undertake a four or five-match tour of Europe before the Aussies, if they win Oceania, play their away play-off leg, we have two chances of getting to Barcelona — Buckley's and none.

Winning in Fiji next week is the easy part.

It's the final hurdle that appears to be insurmountable.

This is the squad Eddie Thomson has selected for the three games in Fiji: John Filan, Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic (c), Dominic Longo, Steve Georgakis, Shaun Murphy, Milan Blagojevic, Tony Vidmar, John Gibson, Damian Mori, George Slifkas, Eric Hristodoulou, John Markovski, Steve Refenes, Carl Veart, David Seal, Gary Hasler, Mark Babic.



Star Olympian Milan Blagojevic

Kiwis cocky

New Zealand Olympic coach Ian Marshall believes Australia is in the box seat to win the Oceania qualifying rounds in Fiji.

"Australia has already posted three wins, with good goal averages, while the rest of us have yet to put a win on the board," he said.

"But Australia isn't the only worry. Fiji at home presents a huge problem and we play them first."

"They don't travel well but they beat our senior team last time we played in Fiji."

New Zealand has had four withdrawals from the original squad, three of whom played against Australia in Melbourne.

Captain Chris Jackson will undergo a back operation in the next few days, Shaun Williams is injured while Kane Lynch and Gavin Wilkinson have given preference to university exams.

"New Zealand performs at their best when their backs are to the wall and we will face that situation in Fiji," said Marshall.

"But even though

SWEDEN VISIT

The Socceroos' three-match series against Sweden will be played in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

The first game is in Sydney on January 26, then it's Adelaide turn on January 29, and the final match is in Melbourne on February 2.

The Swedes have chosen Australia as part of their preparation for next June's European Championship, for which they have qualified automatically as host nation.

It is, however, doubtful whether they can bring anything like a full complement of players down under.

Most of their players are based abroad, and some be required by their clubs in Italy and Portugal.

Besides players who are based in Sweden, the Swedes should be able to bring their internationals who play in Germany and in the low countries (Belgium and Holland) as these countries have a winter break.

— LOU GAUTIER



Main striker: DAVID SEAL

GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES



Palatsides well and truly on the outer!



South Melbourne star Joe Palatsides.

JUST five months after being elevated to hero status on the biggest day on the NSL calendar, all the gloss of South Melbourne's championship win has been tarnished for Joe Palatsides.

'Pala', the likeable rogue and young veteran of three NSL clubs, is on the outer and transfer-listed by the club he still insists is the best in the country.

On May 5 this year his name was etched forever into Hellas folklore when he scored the club's dramatic late equaliser against Melbourne Croatia, forcing the game into extra time and an eventual penalty shoot-out which broke the Middle Park title drought.

"It's a real comedown, there's no doubt about that", says Palatsides.

"I'm more than a little disappointed at leaving, particularly as South Melbourne is such a good club and I am leaving lots of mates there.

"And what has made it worse is that the club is asking \$18,000 for me.

"That is pretty restrictive and I really don't think it is justified".

Palatsides, who filled in as a jack-of-all-trades during his two years at Middle Park, still believes that his limited opportunities stemmed from a disagreement with coach Ferenc Puskas.

According to Palatsides, he felt Puskas had had something against him from the day he walked into the club.

"There was nothing I could put my finger on, I just got that feeling", Palatsides explained.

"I got two goals in my only three games up

front in my first year and played other matches as a mid-fielder or at right back.

"Last year I didn't get a game at all until round 18.

"But the rot really started when we toured Greece.

"I hadn't done anything since the grand final but I knew that once the club had bought Gary (Hasler) that I would have to pull my socks up if I was going to hold my spot.

"I decided I would give him (Puskas) no excuse to drop me, I trained as hard as I'd ever done.

"In the day before the first game I scored a hat-trick in a practice match and yet when the team was selected, Gary and 'Tas' (Steve Tasios) were in and I was out.

"To be honest, I was really devastated by that.

"Stupidly, I had a go

at him (Puskas) about it — in retrospect it was the wrong thing to do."

"I knew there and then that my time at the club was over", says the broken-hearted former Brunswick Juniors and Melbourne City livewire.

Palatsides' luck hasn't changed much since as he sits out the opening rounds of the season.

In an attempt to retain match-fitness Palatsides played for Hellas in a hit-out against Oakleigh and promptly strained ligaments in his left knee, probably crueling his chance for a transfer to Heidelberg.

Since then, Sydney Croatia, Wollongong and the Adelaide Sharks have all sniffed about without confirming an offer for the grand final hero.

His message is clear.

"The knee is fine, I'm fit and I'm dead keen", he says.

"I'm looking for a club and all I want to do is to play and prove a few people wrong".

Pines upset

THE Victorian season finished in sensational fashion last week as Frankston Pines upset the more fancied North Geelong to win the 1991 State League Cup Final at Bulleen's Veneto Club home.

The match finished 1-1 after extra-time, with Pines taking the trophy 5-3 on penalties.

After a scoreless first half, North Geelong, recently promoted to the Premier League for the 1992 season, took a 65th minute lead as Adrian Cervinski scored from a rebound from Pines goalkeeper Lee Davies.

But Pines' Brian Johnstone took the match into extra-time with a dramatic 87th minute equaliser.

North Geelong was reduced to ten men during extra time when David Krasic was sent off by referee Jim Hogg.

The favorites survived extra-time but finally conceded the State League Cup as Pines won the shoot-out from the penalty spot.

Victoria get in step with rest

THE Victorian Soccer Federation has belatedly fallen into line with Australia's other major sporting codes with the introduction of a finals series of play-offs to decide the Premier League champion from the 1992 season on.

But it took the casting vote of former NSL club Sunshine George Cross to swing the deal at a VSF Special General Meeting in Melbourne last week.

Needing a two-thirds majority in favour to effect the change to the VSF constitution, Sunshine's key vote passed the motion with a 33 to 12 club vote in favour, with one club absent from the count.

What was so nearly an embarrassing defeat for the VSF was hailed as a breakthrough victory by VSF Chairman Vito Cilauro and Pre-

mier League Chairman Joe Caruso.

The break from the so-called traditional first-past-the-post system was clearly not as well supported as the VSF Board of Management had imagined when it convened the SGM last month.

The otherwise momentous occasion was soured by the over-riding feeling of suspicion at the meeting as clubs from the lower divisions probed the board's planning for the series.

Although the finals series directly affects the Premier League only, it took some impassioned speech-making in favour of the motion to swing the vote in the eyes of the Victorian League clubs.

As Cilauro suggested later, even the hint of change appears to strengthen the resolve of clubs to resist the succession of initiatives

being considered by the VSF.

This does not augur well for the future of the likes of the commissioners' concept, a change considered by the board this year and likely to be pursued again under Cilauro's leadership in 1992.

But Cilauro re-affirmed his commitment to the seemingly monumental task of pushing for further change to push the game into the 1990s.

Last week's history-making decision, originally initiated by the Premier League clubs themselves, has been introduced as a revenue-raising showpiece for the Victorian season and a reward for Premier League clubs which, given the NSL's closed shop until 1993, have little to play for at least the next two years.

No dates or venues for the series have been decided, but VSF Executive Director George Wallace, in addressing

the question of the logistics of the initiative, assured member clubs that finals fixtures would not impinge upon any State League competitions.

The board also gave assurances that post-season competitions such as the Coppa Italia and Hellenic Cups - seen as valuable revenue-raisers by host clubs - would not suffer because the VSF was adopting the finals play-offs.

There would also be no change to the current promotion and relegation regulations, allowing every State League club the opportunity to play in the Premier League and contest the finals series, to be billed as the pinnacle of Victorian competition.

The finals will be played along the lines currently in vogue in both the NSL and the NSW Rugby League, with five teams in contention for the title at the end of the home-and-away rounds.

In week one fifth plays fourth in the elimination final (loser eliminated) and second plays third in the qualifying final for the right to take on the minor premier.

In week two the elimination final winner plays the qualifying final loser (loser eliminated), with the minor premier taking on the qualifying final winner in the major semi final for a place in the grand final.

In the penultimate game the winner of the previous week's knockout final plays the loser of the major semi for the right to a grand final berth against the major semi winner.

"It (the finals concept) is a proven idea in Australian sport and is accepted by Australian sports followers", said Caruso in his address to the clubs.

"The series won't be as big as the NSL but I believe it will prove be-

neficial to the code all the way around.

"We can look forward to a lot more promotion and we will retain interest in the competition in the game until the end of the season.

"We are going through changes in soccer and most of them have been beneficial to the game.

"This is one of those changes for the better.

"We have to start seeing soccer as not just a sport, but an entertainment package."

State League Chairman Joe Dockerty also supported the proposal despite the apparent hesitancy of some State League club delegates to embrace the move.

"I see it as a progressive move", Dockerty told the clubs.

"I support any such move so long as we (the State League clubs) are included in any situation."

"I don't think this will affect us".

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AROUND THE NATION

It could be all the way for the strong USA in the FIFA women's World Cup



A USA PLAYER IN ACTION

THE Executive Director of the Australian Women's Soccer Association, Heather Reid, believes that the USA will be the team to beat in the forthcoming FIFA Women's World Cup.

"The USA has had excellent preparation and should prove to be physically and psychologically stronger in this historic event", she said.

Reid added that the USA was unlucky in the FIFA invitational world championship in 1988 when they were beaten 1-0 in the quarter-finals by Norway. "They had some upsets in the team which saw one of their key players stay at home with a late injury and their captain return to the USA following an unfortunate illness in the family", Reid said.

In August the USA women's team had a two-week test run to China, site for the first FIFA Women's World

Championship this month. The tour did not include captain, April Heinrichs who was undergoing knee surgery.

The USA faced the tough Chinese national team three times and lost the first game 1-2, drew the second 2-2 and romped home with a 3-0 win in the last match. The Chinese played at a fast pace with great skill and team technical speed.

USA were caught off-guard in the first game as the players adjusted to the speed of play. The second match was played before 40,000 spectators and resulted in a see-saw 2-2 finish. By the third game, the Americans were in high gear and Michelle Skers-Stahl personally destroyed China by scoring three goals.

Clearly, USA coach, Anson Dorrance, treated the three games as the first round of the world championship where physical and psychological strengths will be tested. At World Cup level the margin of

victory is very narrow and each nation will need to secure three or four points to advance to the quarter finals.

Earlier this year, the Americans beat Norway, 4-0 and 4-2 in an invitational Canadian tournament. Norway has also recently travelled to America and won twice against the US after finishing second in the European Championships.

Norway lost to Germany in extra time of the European final after eliminating Denmark on penalties (8-7) after the teams failed to score in regulation time. Denmark was one of two countries to beat the USA women on a European tour in June.

Meanwhile, the draw for the World Cup has Oceania's representative, New Zealand, in the same group as China, Norway and Denmark.

Reid has stated that this group should be the toughest as there is no 'easy beat' team. "New Zealand will need at least a point from every game if they are to qualify for the quarter-finals", she said.

The other teams in the World Cup include: USA, Japan, Brazil and Sweden in Group B; Germany, Italy, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) and Nigeria in Group C. Norway defeated

Sweden, 2-1, in the FIFA invitational world championship in 1988 with Brazil and China finishing third and fourth.

Canberra Uni win

Canberra University ended a difficult season with success when it won the soccer section of the recently-completed Australian Tertiary Education Games in Canberra.

After losing its opening fixture in the competition, which is restricted to students, the university put together an unbeaten run of four games to reach the semi-final where it overwhelmed Nepean 4-0. It met Macarthur in the final and its 2-0 win avenged a loss to the same opponent in last year's competition. Weston Creek player Tim Dale scored both the Canberra goals.

The university had seven players selected in the Australian team. They are: Dale, Weston

Creek team-mate Rodney Vidlers, Nich Behr, Darren Toohey (Belconnen United), Paul Allen, Nick Crouch (Canberra University), Ash Bryant (Tuggeranong United).

Rockdale looking for new HQ

Rockdale Ilinden are aiming to go upmarket and are bidding for a more suitable home ground for the 1992 NSW winter season.

Newly elected club president Tom Mackovski said: "We have been using Hurstville Oval, which has some big

pluses in the quality of its facilities.

"On the debit side the spectators are well away from the play, and the local Council closes the ground down if the weather is at all adverse.

"If we can obtain a superior ground, free of a cricket pitch, we will be one of the best placed

clubs when the new Super League comes into being next season."

The new secretary, Jim Trajcevski, has had plenty of experience with the club.

He was a player when Rockdale Ilinden was founded, and also has previously held the positions of both president

and secretary.

Chris Srbivovski, another member of the new seven man executive, will cover the marketing area.

Already the National Australia Bank has renewed its sponsorship, and other sponsors are expected to follow.

Mr Mackovski said: "Our aim for 1992 is to bring in more of the local community to complement our strong Macedonian following.

"We believe that Lube Jancev did a very good coaching job for us last season, and he has been re-signed.

"Hopefully we still retain almost all of our present playing staff.

"However attacking midfielder Zlatko Markovski has returned to Wollongong Macedonia, and there would be some doubt whether we will have Sydney Croatia's Ivan Petkovic again."

Rockdale Ilinden played convincing football and made fourth place and competed in the Top Five last season.

with Premier League club Hibernian.

The giant defender, who measures 196cm, is excellent in the air and has scored 11 goals this season, often when coming forward at set-pieces.

His ambition is to move interstate and try and play in the NSL.

Compagne is one of the favourites for tomorrow night's Vic Tuting Silver Medal count for the best and fairest State League player.

Last Christmas, Compagne, together with his Ulverstone team-mate, Anthony Guilbert, went to Scotland where they trialled

Snowy peaks in Tasmania

BY WALTER PLESS
JOHN "Snowy" Compagne, the 20-year-old sweeper of State League club Ulverstone is the Tasmanian Soccer Writers' Player-of-the-Year for 1991.

Compagne polled eight votes to win the award, which is in its second year.

White Eagle midfielder Scott Young won the award last year, the

first time the State's four soccer writers had conducted the poll.

Compagne captained the Tasmanian Under-21 team this season for its two matches against the visiting Joeys, the Australian national under-17 side which took part in this year's Under-17 World Cup in Italy.

Last Christmas, Compagne, together with his Ulverstone team-mate, Anthony Guilbert, went to Scotland where they trialled

Shire fix up staff

Bill Rigby, Peter Terry and John O'Shea are in place as the 1992 coaching team for this year's NSW State League premiers, Sutherland Shire.

Rigby will again be in charge of first grade, assisted by former St George and Sutherland defender Terry, whilst ex-St George star O'Shea will attend to the Under 19s.

Sutherland had a great first round this year, which helped them to take the premiership by two points from late improvers, Blacktown City.

The circumstances of the Interstate Challenge loss to Brunswick Juniors by the narrowest of margins was a shock for the Sydney club.

"We were more than surprised that the Victorian Federation permitted them to play two high ranking guest players from Bulleen and Morwell Falcons in the second leg in Melbourne," Rigby commented.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



Porter in spotlight

NEWCASTLE Breakers have run their eye over Polonia's exciting teenage scoring talent Shane Porter.

Coach Bruce Stowell, on the recommendation of his fitness co-ordinator, former South Australian Nick Joy, ran the rule over Porter, 17, during this month's national titles in Parklea.

SA, with Porter scoring twice from a midfield role, reached the semi-finals.

"Nothing has happened yet. I'll just have to wait and see if there are any developments with Newcastle," Porter said.

"My contract with Polonia is up at the end of November and I'll be thinking more about my future then. I'll see what comes up."

Porter, an apprentice with a confectionery manufacturer, was SA's most exciting scoring sensations early in the past season and marked himself as a player with NSL potential.

Along with West Adelaide's Paul Agostino and Jamie Perin and John Aloisi, of Adelaide City, Porter was called into a Youth Socceroo training camp after the nationals by coach Les Scheinfug.

"We had a good tournament and should have made the final but that is how it goes," Porter said. "The camp was good and I think the four of us all did well."

"Les said he would be sending a letter to those he wanted to go back for another camp before Christmas. We'll have to wait to see about that."

City coach Zoran Matic on weekend radio tipped a golden future for Aloisi if he keeps up his rate of improvement.

"He looks one of our young players who could make it to the NSL," Matic said.

"He is strong for his age, quick, athletic and has an eye for goals. He looks as if he has a big future if he keeps up his progress."

★★★



Adelaide City in action against South Melbourne — JANUSZ KAMMA

ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic is suspicious City midfielder Zoran Ilic was left out of the Australian Olympic Games qualifying squad to play in Fiji next month because of political reasons.

"I cannot understand it," Matic said. "He has been involved all along and now he is omitted."

"I have been in touch with (Eddie) Thomson but he has not replied to me about it."

"City supplies many players to the national squads and I feel we are due some consideration from the soccer bosses."

Had Ilic been in the touring squad with Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart, City, under NSL rules, could have called for a deferment of its crucial games Heidelberg (a November 10) and Melbourne Croatia (h, November 17).

The Zebras now will go into these games with two international players short. Any other injuries or suspensions would put real stress on Matic's playing depth.

★★★
WEST Adelaide stron-

gman Claudio Canosa

looked like a bull running wild with his keen aggression early in the league derby with City.

But Victorian referee John Santa Isabel called on some inside information to calm down the defender.

He had a quiet word in the big man's ear — in his native Spanish.

Canosa has undoubted enthusiasm for the job at hand.

But his rough and tumble methods look sure to earn him more than one talking to this season.

★★★

STATE coach Martyn Crook has been re-appointed boss of Para Hills for next season.

The announcement was made at Para's presentation evening on Friday when teenager Mark Yates scooped the pool.

Yates, who will tour the UK from December with the Australian High School team, was most improved, Supporters' Player of the Year and Player of the Year.

Ray Deeley was voted Players' Player of the Year with similar under-18 and reserves

awards going to Bradley Smith and Owen O'Neill (joint) and Colin Plunkett respectively.

Most improved under-18 was Sean Reynolds with Smith snaring the Reserves. Barry Crook and Paul Blute shared the goal-scoring award.

Martyn Crook believes next season's Foundation SA League title is not out of Para Hills' grasp.

"I am not prepared to promise anything and we need to strengthen for next season," Crook said. "But, if all in the club work for it, there could be a championship."

"Soccer in Australia is improving all the time. The standards definitely are lifting."

"The club here has a youth policy and if the youngsters are good enough, they will get their chance."

Crook receives excellent backroom backing from specialist coach Barry Cook and reserves boss Micky Doyle, who both will stay with the club next season.

In a welcome touch at Para's presentation

evening, Anne Jackson, wife of club manager Alec, presented unsung heroes Irene Blunt, Marion Philbrook and Jan Stenhnia with gifts for the sterling work they do behind the scenes.

★★★

FORMER Blackwood stalwart Alan Charman was honoured at the Hills' club's presentation evening.

Chairman, a vociferous and generous backer for Blackwood in its rise from Division Five amateur status to First Division Federation since 1977, was presented with a plaque by the new energetic committee.

★★★

RENO Martinovic is back as president of Croatia.

He succeeds Tony Kilic, who also will give assistance to the club in the coming season.

The club committee is expected to discuss the coaching position in the next two to three weeks.

In a topsy turvy year, experienced player Ante Ljubic took over the coaching roles after Peter Jaksa resigned.

Pat Dinan was run-

Jaksa, favoured to lead Campbelltown next season, took over after Donald Campbell's departure from the club.

★★★

MEMBERS of Adelaide City's official fan club, the Zebras, should look a picture in coming weeks.

With help from keen sponsor, Cafe Buongiorno at Norwood, paid up members of the Zebras club will receive great new T-shirts.

The shirts' major design feature is, of course a zebra.

Fans will receive their shirts at an official presentation evening on Friday, November 29 at the Hindmarsh hall behind the Stadium grandstand.

★★★

AT BLACKWOOD, key defender Graham Campbell is considering his playing future after a very successful season with the relegated club.

He has been named Player of the Year — following his runner-up success in the Foundation Player of the Year count.

"My intention is to go as far as I possibly can in Europe.

"Scouts are about from other countries and I still would like to try my luck in Italy."

ner-up to him at the Hills club with Adam Wigg scoring in the Reserves and junior honors going to Matt Skrokov.

★★★

INTERNATIONAL stars Steve Maxwell and Carl Veart had x-rays as Adelaide City counted some cost from its steaming 4-1 NSL win against West Adelaide Sharks.

Veart nursed the foot he broke last season but that only was badly bruised, not broken his time.

Maxwell had a jaw injury after receiving a back-hander.

★★★

ADELAIDE City expects to welcome Yugoslav midfielder Ratko Ninkovic by the end of this month.

The club is working through the arduous immigration details.

Ninkovic, 24, played with First Division club FK Zeljeznar.

City coach Zoran Matic said: "We just have to wait to see how long the immigration process takes. We hope we can get him here in three or four weeks."

★★★

Former Adelaide City star Aurelio Vidmar is going great guns in Belgium.

He is enjoying the life of a full-time professional.

The Socceroo has bagged eight goals since joining unfashionable Kortrijk for what now looks a bargain \$250,000 fee.

After 11 games, Kortrijk has won two, drawn five and lost four matches to be 13th on the 18-team league table.

"Kortrijk is not a big club but it's a good club and I've made many new friends," Vidmar is reported as saying.

"At the moment it's freezing cold and I'm learning how to play on muddy pitches.

"My intention is to go as far as I possibly can in Europe.

"Scouts are about from other countries and I still would like to try my luck in Italy."

South Australia



**Foundation
S.A.**

South Australia



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South Australia



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South Australia



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The latest from Victoria

Croatia has stars and unsung heroes

BY GREG BLAKE

IN these glory days at Somers Street there are hardly unsung heroes.

Three successive finals campaigns, one epic grand final and a barnstorming start to the new season has seen to it that few Melbourne Croatia players are anything less than household names.

But whilst the stars are shining their armour and sharpening their swords, there are still the bit part players, fighting like soldier ants to make certain that the leading actors can always deliver their lines on time and with a minimum of problems.

One such master of trench warfare is Paul Donnelly, a veteran of over 300 Scottish League games, yet one of the least profiled of those gracing the Somers Street turf in 1991.

Not that the relative anonymity of it all bothers him too much.

"I don't mind at all because it's great to be part of such a good team set-up", he says.

"It's inevitable that players like me don't (get much publicity) because of the quality of the other players who are here.

"But the important thing is that we function as a team on and off the park".

Off the park Donnelly is a charming and affable fellow, the type you could easily share a jar or two with and while away the hours.

On the field he is surely the most horrendous of opponents, rather like a black hole defences fall into and rarely extricate themselves from.

A dour low-slung defender who delights in tackling and revels in linking up with a Croatia attack which attacks in waves rather than ripples.

Almost the consummate team performer and a player who fits the mo-



PAUL DONNELLY IN ACTION

uld of new coach Ken Murphy to a tee.

Indeed, there is more than a touch of the 'Murph' about him, perhaps explaining his eye-catching displays in the current season.

"(Previous coach) Ken (Worden) was always going to be hard to replace but the club has come up with a real winner with Murph", he says.

"In some ways they are similar in that they are both real winners.

"But Murph has instilled more discipline into the team and a new part of our make-up is that we put more pressure on teams.

The good thing about him is that, just as he was an honest player, he is also an honest coach. The players respect that".

Unlike any number of UK imports to grace these shores, Donnelly has enormous respect for Aussie soccer and the NSL competition and readily admits that more than a little hard work is required if a player is to make the grade these days.

"Let's put it into perspective", he says. "You take players like Farina, Vidmar and Slater and realise that they've impressed and made their pre-

sence felt in Europe.

"I believe the standard here is much higher than lost of people suggest and the day will come when Australia will prove itself at senior international level".

Donnelly, who was in Perth before getting the call east, originally joined Croatia under Ian Wallace, back in the Ian Dobson, Graham Heys and Robbie Dunn era.

And although he concedes that that was a good side, the current team, built by 1989-90 coach Ivan Raznjevic, has the potential to be much better.

"After losing many of the players here when I joined we finished about sixth", he explained.

"Then Raznjevic came in and got the club up again, buying players and building a team — moulding the players together.

"We were very disappointed to lose the grand final last year but I'm certain we can get there again.

"I'm happy to be a part of such a good side".

Reno takes it in his stride

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR Reno Minichiello, a return to NSL life with struggling Apia is better than no return at all.

To him, a baptism of fire in his new club colours — including a 6-1 thumping on his old Middle Park stomping ground — is a mere hiccup as he reclaims a place in the nation's elite competition.

The former Melbournian says he is already finding his feet in Sydney and that he is happy to have linked up with "a great bunch of guys".

"I'm really happy to be at Apia", he says.

"Having Jeff (Doyle) come up at the same time helped settle me in but the boys here are all great and a really good team unit".

Minichiello, a Brunswick Juventus player for a decade, came through the ranks of that club from junior level and admits that, although he was disappointed to leave, he had become a part of the black and white furniture.

He already boasts an NSL pedigree, having played his part in Juve's only NSL title win back in 1985.

He and a young Mehmet Durakovic took their places in the 1985



RENO MINICIELLO

Southern Division Grand Final as replacements for the suspended Peter Lewis and John Dowie.

After beating Preston in that dramatic final, Juve featured in the dual-legged national play-off with Sydney City, with Minichiello getting a run in the successful second leg in Melbourne to replace Robbie Cullen after Cullen was concussed.

"I really believe that it is a good team, but it will take five or six weeks before we are playing the way Manfred wants us to.

"I think in the weeks to come that we'll come back".

and carried off after 18 minutes of play.

"They were great days", recalls Minichiello.

"But this is a new challenge for me, wanting to play NSL again and wanting to prove myself.

"I'm confident I can play NSL again - I hope so because that's the main reason I went to Sydney.

"I had a few offers in Melbourne, but since I've played under (coach) Manfred (Schafer) before, he knows the way I play and what I can do.

"I think it will be a good move for me".

If Minichiello had any reservations about Sydney life, they have since been well and truly laid to rest.

Minichiello says he has already settled into the Sydney lifestyle and now it's just a matter of the serious business of helping Apia make its way up the NSL ladder.

"It is a re-built side with lots of new players and we really only completely got together one week before the season", he explained.

"I really believe that it is a good team, but it will take five or six weeks before we are playing the way Manfred wants us to.

"I think in the weeks to come that we'll come back".

South Melbourne boss hits back!

BY GREG BLAKE

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas president George Vasilopoulos has hit back in the face of criticism over the recent signing, on loan, of visa player Robert Csabai.

Canadian-born Csabai is the son of former Ferencvaros (Hungary) and Zaragoza (Spain) player Josef Csabai, a close friend of current Hellas coach and former Honved and Real Madrid star Ferenc Puskas.

Csabai, who comes to Hellas on loan from Hungarian club Honved until next May, has been pursued by the club for two years since Csabai senior told Puskas his son would like

the chance to play under him.

But, according to a source at Middle Park, the signing of the \$400 per-week visa player might cause divisions in the closely-knit 1991 grand final team.

Csabai's signing comes as faithful clubmen Joe Palatsides and Paul Fernandes have been transfer-listed and amidst suggestions that some Hellas players are still owed money from the championship-winning 1990/91 campaign.

Vasilopoulos refuted the claims, saying that he «completely and honestly» rejected any claims of players being owed money.

"And I am disappointed that any players might feel put out by our signing of the player", said the Hellas

supremo. "But they only won the championship in May and the push to get this player started back in September 1989.

"This is nothing against the boys, it has just eventuated.

"It might upset some people, but players come and players go and people want to see these new players introduced.

"It creates interest — in his first training session we had over 500 people come out to see him.

"The bottom line is that the coach will make the final decisions as to who does and who doesn't make the team.

"If he is no good and he doesn't make it, we've got a return ticket and we can send him back".

**LIVE NSL BROADCASTS
EVERY WEEKEND ON
1503 3AK'S SUPER
SOCCER SUNDAY**

* Join ABSW's Greg Blake and the rest of the team each week as they describe the action from the match of the round *

Review show 10pm-12 Sunday nights

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat



Don't forget me — Robbie Slater



Robbie Slater

ROBBIE Slater is out of his slump in France and was rated Lens' best player for the last two weeks.

He got "France Football" magazine's highest marks in the Lens line-up in the 0-0 home draw with Le Havre and also against Monaco on the Riviera — another scoreless draw.

And Graham Arnold continued in goal-scoring vein in Holland.

His latest goal was a 56th minute strike to give Roda JC a 1-1 draw with Sparta Rotterdam, who had opened the scoring after 30 minutes, at Kerkrade.

Sparta are currently in third place in the Dutch First Division and Roda are fifth, but the standings don't me-

ant much at this stage as several clubs have as many as four games in hand.

Both Slater and Arnold have the Socceroos very much on their minds.

That goes especially for French-based Slater who does not want to be forgotten.

Slater is our highest profile Socceroo in western Europe with Frank Farina, and as such he deserves to be included in any of coach Eddie Thomson's plans.

The French First Division will be in winter recess in January when the Socceroos are scheduled to play Sweden.

He should be flown out by the ASF to strut his stuff for the Socceroos.

— LOU GAUTIER

★★★

Newcastle BHP Breakers have joined forces with Mitre 10.

Mitre 10 will be the official sponsor, for the next 5 years of the Breakers Stadium & Field at Birmingham Gardens.

The ground will now be known as *Mitre 10 Stadium*.

Michael Thomson, the Marketing Manager for Mitre 10 (Newcastle) said Mitre 10 was honoured to have been invited to form a relationship with the Breakers. "Mitre 10 are very excited and proud about this new association".

★★★

ACT award shock

BY GRAHAM COOKE

One of the most eventful seasons in the history of the ACT League had a sting in its tail when Canberra Croatia's Tony Pangallo was named Player of the Year.

Guests at the Roma Restaurant, already sated by a heady diet of the Neame report on ACT soccer and the most extensive representative program in almost two decades, were handed a final delicacy when Pangallo, from bottom club Canberra Croatia, pushed past the favourites to clinch the title.

There had been an inkling of what was to come when the little midfielder or wide attacker took an early four-vote lead in the progressive count

calculated at the end of the second round.

And while his margin had been whittled down to a single vote in the final tally, he had, nevertheless, hung on to provide the biggest upset in the four-year history of the award.

Pangallo came to prominence as a 15-year-old when the 1988 financial crisis at the then Canberra Griffins propelled him into the NSW League. It also gave him a stage on which to impress the national selectors, and he was included in the Australian Joeys' team to play in the world under-16 championship in Scotland the following year.

A successful tournament, during which he was named Player of the Match against the United States, did not translate into progress on the

club scene. After a couple of seasons in Canberra's NSW youth team he drifted into the Croatia ACT League squad and appeared to be well on the way to becoming soccer's forgotten man.

That changed in 1991 when he gained promotion to the ACT senior squad for matches against Malaysia and Fiji.

And while Croatia was slipping to the bottom of the league for the first time in its history, he was one player who never dropped his head. Despite not having an out-and-out striker's role, he finished top scorer, and his spirit and effort were the key factors behind last night's award.

One vote behind Pangallo's total of 22 was striker Alan Reis from champion Tuggeranong United.

Puskas lures young Canadian

ROBERT Csabai is confident of his ability and hopeful of forcing his way into the South Melbourne starting line-up shortly.

The Canadian international joined South's training for the first time last week coming to Australia after gaining two years of experience in Europe.

Csabai is the product of the Ferenc Puskas coaching school in Canada.

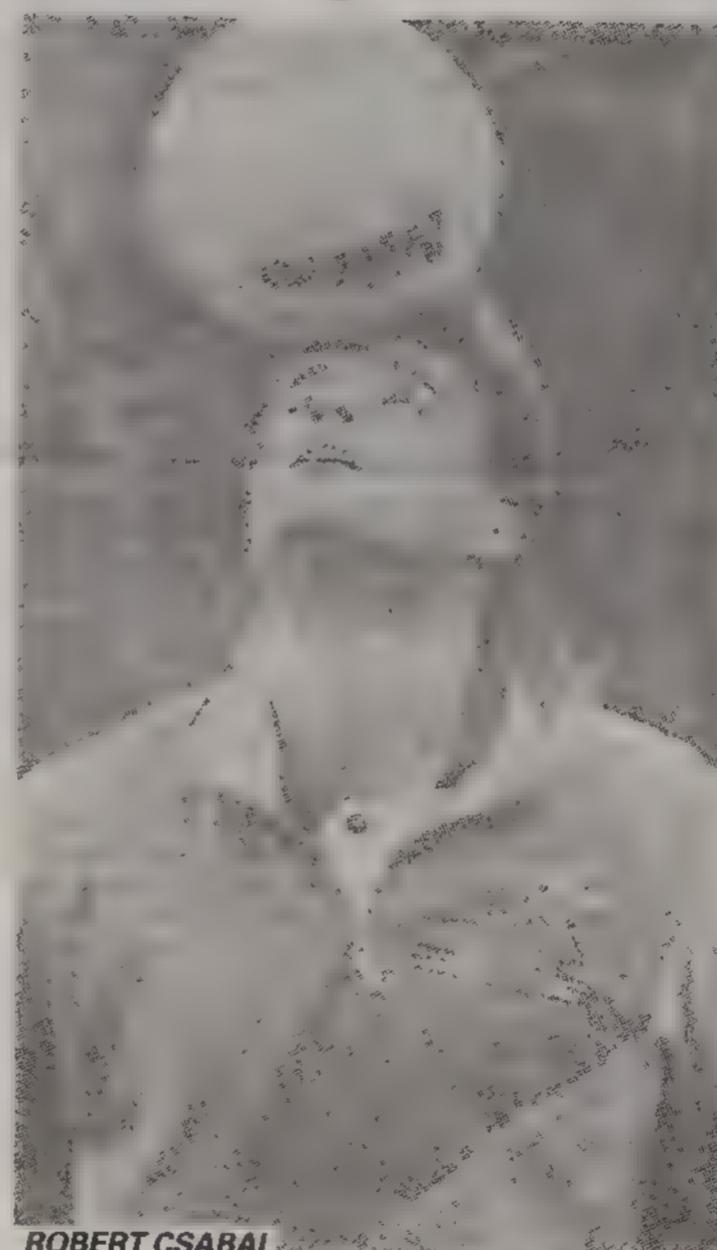
His father Josef, a first division player in Hungary and Spain in the Puskas era, is the head coach.

Robert Csabai played for Canada at four levels.

He was at the world under-17 finals in 1987, played 10 games for the youth and Olympic teams and was drafted into the senior side for an international tournament in Morocco in 1989 — the Games of Francophonie.

At club level, he was part of the championship-winning Vancouver 86ers side in his first senior season, but his father felt he needed experience in Europe.

"I spent time training



ROBERT CSABAI

under Radomir Antic in Spain, Ciro Blazevic in France, and Gianni Rossi in Italy before going over to Honved for the past season,"

Csabai said.

He was with Honved on a non-contract basis, but managed a handful of first team appearances as the club won the Hungarian first division title.

PERSONALITY
★★★ PLAYER ★★★

* MARK BOSNICH
(Sydney Croatia)



NAME: Mark Bosnich
DATE OF BIRTH: 13/1/72
HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 6'2" cms, 86kg
MARRIED: No
HOME: Liverpool
NICKNAME: Boza
CAR: Ford Laser
OCCUPATION: Fulltime soccer and Sydney Croatia's development officer.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Manchester United, Sydney Croatia and Marconi
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS CLUB: Manchester United
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Neville Southall
FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: Mark Babic
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: David Seal
FAVOURITE GROUND: Old Trafford
MOST MEMORABLE GAME: Manchester United vs Tottenham (last match of the season 1-1)
BIGGEST THRILL: Signing for Manchester United
BIGGEST APPOINTMENT: Notable to obtain work permit in England
WORST INJURY: Thrombkle ligament
FAVOURITE POSITION: Goalkeeper
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: All sports
FAVOURITE FOOD: Spinach
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Anything that's good
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Cheers
BEST FRIEND: My dad
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My family and Ron Corry
AMBITIONS: To be successful
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Mark Babic
PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Mike Tyson
PREDICTION FOR TOP FIVE SERIES: Sydney Croatia, Melbourne Croatia, Marconi, South Melbourne, Sydney Olympic

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

ON SALE
CITY:
TUESDAY
COUNTRY:
WEDNESDAY

Yet another set to try luck overseas

GUY HAND LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

BRISBANE United defender Ibro Cahut is set to try his luck in English football at the end of the NSL season.

found a comfortable niche in the side at left back.

But Cahut is still keen to try his luck overseas.

"It's still all sweet with Stoke and they've left the offer open to me. Provided I pay my own fare over," he said.

"I'll finish this NSL season and provided I have a good season with no injuries and I feel keen at the end of it, I'll head to Stoke.

"My wife's 100 per cent backing me on this one."

But whether United would release the former Australian under-20 defender if Stoke accepted him is a different story.

Cahut is on a two-year contract with Brisbane United, but hopes to get a release if given the chance to play in England.

"The two-year contract is probably the only real hitch," he said.

"Brisbane United would probably want me to play locally here in the off-season or not at all.

"I'll have to thrash that out with them later in the season."

Cahut said he was happy with his own form so far in the NSL, with the personal highlight his volleyed goal in United's 3-1 loss to Melbourne Croatia.

"I'm pretty happy so far, but I reckon I can give another 20-30 per cent yet," he said.

"We're still learning to play together, but I reckon we'll go real well."

"I don't think many teams will come up here and get points off us, so if we can salvage points in our away matches, we'll get in the top five."

Cahut said the side's preparation for the Melbourne Croatia game was not helped by the fact the team arrived at the ground less than 90 minutes before kick-off.

United signed Cahut from Wollongong City for \$8000 and he has



IBRO CAHUT

Cahut, 24, turned down a trial with English third division side Stoke City this season to join the NSL newcomers, but has left the way open for a trial with Stoke when the NSL season finishes.

The former Wollongong City player had arranged to pay his own airfare to trial with the north English club at the end of the Wolves' 1990-91 NSL season.

But Cahut and wife Nerina, who is originally from Brisbane, came north for a holiday earlier this year and their plans took a drastic change.

"At the end of last NSL season I had the trials all ready to go, but my old XXXX League club Brisbane City knew I was up here and made me an offer I couldn't refuse," Cahut said.

"Nerina's family are all here and she said she would be happier here, so I decided to play out the season with Brisbane City."

"Then Brisbane United came along and it all snowballed from there."

United signed Cahut from Wollongong City for \$8000 and he has



REPLACED: BILLY WILLIAMSON.

XXXX League club North Star has thrown sacked Brisbane Croatia coach Peter Bannon a lifeline to save his coaching career.

Bannon replaces Billy Williamson as coach

of the Zillmere-based club for the 1992 season.

North Star appointed Bannon as coach over six other applicants, including Williams, who has coached the team since 1989.

Bannon guided newly-promoted Croatia to

wins in eight of their first 11 XXXX League games in 1991, before the team hit a form slump.

Despite his efforts to put the side in the hunt for a final five spot, Bannon was sacked in July and replaced with Zelko Bambic.

Bambic eventually guided Croatia to a final five berth.

North Star had one of their leanest seasons for some time in 1991, but the club is hoping Bannon can turn its fortunes around.

In other North Star

news, teenagers Scott Powell and Eamonn Coffey are the club's new junior scholarship holders.

Powell, 16, and Coffey, 15, will be supplied with gear under the scholarship and will train with the club's senior team.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

NSL Cup needs a real good kick along



Raul Blanco: last year's winning coach.

In case you missed it, the NSL Cup got underway last week.

I say in case you missed it as I nearly did.

Only a phone conversation with Melbourne Croatia coach Ken Murphy a day earlier alerted me to it.

In fact, Murphy himself only found out the day before.

So if people like Murphy and myself, people involved in the game, knew at such late notice, what chance have the supporters let alone the media and the Australian sporting public?

The answer of course is none and merely highlights again that the NSL Cup is the ugly duckling of Australian football, the Cup no one wants, no one cares

about and understandably, the Cup the public is not interested in.

But the problem with the Cup goes far deeper than the almost totally secretive way in which the 1991/92 Cup — our 16th incidentally — was "launched".

The Cup, as it is in every other football playing nation, should be a prestigious affair, running a close second to the championship itself.

Now in its 16th attempt in Australia, it is anything but a prestigious affair.

A secretive, financially inspired, seeded draw takes out the basic element of Cup football — the little club against the big one, the excitement of the draw itself, who plays who where and when...

Economically, it is

no secret the clubs do poorly out of it to such an extent that many clubs would rather be out of it than in it.

Staged as it is mid-week during the championship, it also disrupts the championship.

Who can blame clubs for putting the championship ahead of the Cup in such circumstances?

So too do supporters who have rejected Wednesday night games. While it is easy to criticise the Cup, what should be done about it?

My own thoughts have been published before, since the inception of the NSL some sixteen years ago, however, in the hope that some constructive criticism will prompt much needed change, I offer some thoughts...

* The Cup should be played pre-season

* Thirty two teams in round one comprising...

14 NSW Clubs

10 State League Clubs (top two in NSW and Victoria, top team in ACT, WA, Tasmania, Brisbane, Adelaide, Newcastle).

8 Wild cards from areas the ASF targets for major promotions such as Salisbury, Launceston, Geelong, Griffiths, Albury,

* First two rounds played out of metropolitan areas, again in areas targetted by the ASF such as Coffs Harbour, Townsville etc.

* Final staged as part of "Football Week" in Canberra the week before the NSL season kicks off.

The week would involve seminars for administrators, coaches, referees, media and be highlighted by the launch of the NSL championship and the Cup final itself.

RESULTS SO FAR

Adelaide City 1 West Adelaide 0
Wollongong 1 Sydney Olympic 0
Preston 4 South Melbourne 2
Melb. Croatia 3 Heidelberg 1

TOMORROW

Brisbane v Apia
Melita v Sydney Croatia
Newcastle v Marconi

The Robbie Wheatley Junior Report

Champion of Champions Finals



Illawarra hotshots Figtrees who downed Mt Colah (Ku-ring-gai) 2-0 in the final to win their age group. There will be a full page of pics of the participating teams in the series in next week's issue of ABSW.

The 1991 Commonwealth Bank Champion of Champions grand finals were played at Valentine Park, Parklea last weekend in what could be described as perfect conditions.

The games kicked off at 8.30am with the younger age groups and

continued through until 6.30pm when the last ball was kicked in the mens All Age final.

The matches themselves provided excellent entertainment throughout the day and all teams can be congratulated on the spirit which they exhibited throughout the grand final series.

A total of 43 goals were scored during the

day, giving the thousands of spectators who turned out to cheer their side on plenty to be happy about.

Macarthur's Gunners United under 9 team were the first team to pick up honours when they showed plenty of determination to down Menai Hawks 1-0.

Results fluctuated

during the day of high drama highlighted by two nailbiting penalty shoot-outs in the U/11 and U/17 age groups.

Southern Districts Association have cemented the belief in many people's minds that they are the Premier Sydney Association, boasting five clubs from their area on finals day.

Marconi were successful in the U/10

and U/12 age groups with Mt Pritchard completing the trifecta of good results in the U/14s.

In what many supporters described as the match of the day, the U/17 Mt Pritchard side shot to a deserving 2-0 lead in the first half and had CSI Blacktown on the back foot.

The second half saw a superb comeback by CSI to level the score at 2-2 at the end of normal time. Extra time did nothing to detract from the quality of the game with a goal being shared by both sides tying up the match at 3-3. The penalty shoot-out went CSI's way in a 6-5 sudden death result.

The remaining Southern Districts representative was Liverpool Albion, who have a fine club history in the Champion of Champions.

In the U/18 clash, they met spirited opposition in Marayong Sports and were defeated 2-0.

Strong representation also came from Ku-ring-gai Association (4 clubs), Sutherland (3 clubs), Illawarra (3 clubs), Blacktown (2 clubs) and Bankstown (2 clubs).

Chullora under 21s were defeated 2-0 by Kissing Point after a very close and hard fought affair while

Greenacre proved too strong for Epping Eastwood in the All Age, winning 4-2.

The three women's matches were another highlight of the day, with 11 goals being a main feature of the action. In the women's U/15 game, Greystanes overcame CSI Blacktown 3-0, U/17 Sylvania ladies accounted for Canterbury 2-0 and the Epping Eastwood All Age outfit knocked in four against Roselands.

Throughout the day players were presented to NSL stars and Socceros as part of the prize giving ceremony held in the gymnasium

FINALS RESULTS

Age Club & Association

9 Gunners United (Macarthur) 1, Menai Hawks (Sutherland) 0.

10 Marconi (S Dist) 1, Maccabi (Ku-ring-gai) 0.

11 Balgownie (Illawarra) 1 (4p), Rockdale Illinden (St George) 1 (2p).

12 Marconi (S Dist) 5, North Ryde (Gladesville-Hornsby) 1.

13 Luddenham (Nepean) 0, Castle Hill (Gladesville-Hornsby) 1.

14 Mt Pritchard (S Dist) 2, Menai Hawks (Suth) 1.

15 Figtrees (Illawarra) 2, Mt Colah (Ku-ring-gai) 0.

16 Corrimal (Illawarra) 0, Nth Shores Hellas (Ku-ring-gai) 1.

17 Mt Pritchard (S Dist) 3(5p), CSI (Blacktown) 3(6p).

18 Liverpool Albion (S Dist) 0, Marayong Sports (Blacktown) 2.

21 Chullora (Bankstown) 0, Kissing Point (Ku-ring-gai) 2.

AA Greenacre (Bankstown) 4, Epping Eastwood (Granville-Hornsby) 2.

15W Epping Eastwood (Gladesville-Hornsby) 0, Greystanes (Granville) 3.

17W Sylvania (Suth) 2, Canterbury (Canberra) 0.

AAW Roselands (Canberra) 0, Epping Eastwood (Gladesville-Hornsby) 4.

Penalty shootout is the best solution!

A proposal put forward by former ASF president Ian Brusasco many years ago to delete goalkeepers from soccer in order to increase the number of goals was rightly dismissed as being totally ludicrous at the time but it is now being raised again in some quarters as a possible alternative to penalty shootouts.

It is one of the many suggestions made in an increasingly vocal world wide debate to abolish the present method of deciding drawn matches.

The vast majority of soccer fans are clearly demanding that shootouts be scrapped in favour of some other system and have come up with numerous preferred options, including many which are just as ridiculous as the removal of goalkeepers during extra time.

Least fouls wins, some say. Most corners can decide the game, says others. The team who has most shots at goal should be the winners, first side to score, countback to previous rounds, scrapping the offside rule in extra time, there certainly is no shortage of eccentric suggestions.

As soccer grapples with a dilemma which obviously has no easy answer it becomes more and more apparent that for all its faults, the penalty shootout system — perhaps with a few minor amendments, is after all the best solution to a complex problem short of staging a replay.

Contrary to an overwhelming majority of those who want to see it done away with, I for one cannot see any point in replacing it with another method which will most likely



BRIAN CLOUGH

be just as controversial.

Does anyone really want to see a tally of corner kicks of the number of fouls committed displayed on a scoreboard? Is it seriously being suggested that a count be kept of how many shots at goal each side takes during the 90 or 120 minutes of a game? The mind absolutely boggles.

No matter what magic formula is considered, it's almost impossible to come up with anything as simple, straightforward and suspenseful as the thrilling drama of the penalties.

After all, that's what football is supposed to be all about. We've all been through the exaltation of seeing the Young Socceroos win that dramatic quarter-final in Portugal in the shootout, we have also shared the deep misery and despair of a favourite team eliminated by the dreaded penalties — that's football.

Some will possibly argue that the whole system is unfair, maybe so. Is it more unfair than the now accepted formula of away goals counting double in competitions such as the highly prestigious European Cup?

Then there's our own National League. Apart from some of our traditionalists, nobody suggests that we scrap the top five championship playoffs in favour of going back to first past the post. Not because it's the fairest system — far from it, but it certainly provides a spectacular and dramatic climax to the season.

If soccer wants to be part of the entertainment business, that's precisely what it has to offer.

I still remember Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough making a comment during the telecast of a Euro Cup final a few years ago that TV ratings were about to double as the game went into the deciding penalty shootout. How right he was!

The only amendments which could perhaps be introduced to the system would be to allow a keeper freedom of movement as the kick is being taken to eliminate the ever present controversies and to possibly copy the American system of a shootout from the half way line. This would retain, maybe even increase, the drama and excitement of the sudden death contest.

While staging a replay whenever a game ends in a draw remains the ultimate solution, it has to be accepted that it's not always practical to do so. An alternative therefore must exist in order to obtain a result and for the life of me I just cannot see a better, workable method than the much maligned penalties.

It may leave a lot to be desired, but it's a far better means of deciding a contest than any other alternative. That is unless we want to see the game of football totally prostituted by falling for such hairbrained ideas like Brusasco's now legendary elimination of goalkeepers.



Italian and AC Milan captain Franco Baresi

Italian visit a longshot

Although it appears to be no more than a longshot at this stage, the possible two-match tour of Australia by Italy in June is as exciting a prospect as the appearance of England earlier this year.

Reports that the United States might jeopardise our chances of seeing the Azzurri in action

on by requesting them to play there instead should not be allowed to scuttle the tour entirely.

Perhaps a triangular tournament involving all three countries could be organised here after Italy visits the States. Sure it will cost big money to stage but there must be huge potential for some American and

Italian corporations to get involved in sponsoring such a proposal.

Soccer fans will undoubtedly support a glamour tour like this in their thousands, assuring financial viability while a repeat of the enormous media coverage given to the England game will again lift soccer's profile in this country sky-high.

Maestro Puskas is still the master!



PASSION and class — these two awkward bedfellows always produce a good, sometimes great game of soccer.

Last season Melita had class and it had passion in its play which brought it many compliments and much success.

This season Melita has less class, much less it sometimes seems, whilst its passion and that of its supporters, inevitably abates as its skill languishes.

Against South Melbourne in Sydney the other weekend for half a game Melita's fire and passion shone out under the floodlights.

Then as its skill dwindled, likewise its self belief slumped to the grass roots and it would never have beaten South Melbourne Hellas if it had played them till midnight.

The maestro of Hellas, Ferenc Puskas paraded the field during the half time break, looking up at the well filled Melita grandstand.

Ferenc waddles now rather than walks, and can no longer claim a stately carriage, but so long as his team plays with the flair and class it did in the first half against Melita, wins are assured and so is his reputation.

No soccer player in world football outside of Pele has a bigger reputation, untainted as it is, as the best player of the best team the world has seen, the Hungarian national team of the early 50s.

Some still say he has little influence on his South Melbourne team.

I cannot believe that. Just having such a presence in their midst is bound to have an influence for good on those young men.

Football is not just about kicking a ball with your feet, you play it far better if you use your brains.

The great soccer players all have great soccer brains — perhaps not for finance, nor for politics, or for



Ferenc Puskas in his prime

mechanics, but for soccer, yes!

That is where they live, where they work, where they really use their brains.

How much intelligence do you think a unique talent like Ferenc Puskas gathers in 50 years of life devoted utterly to soccer?

Do not tell me that this man does not transmit some of this to his players in one way or another.

Just the very fact of him picking the players he does, the positions he employs them, has an enormous influence on the team result, style and performance.

Human beings respond to greatness, they respect it, seek to emulate it, seek to please it.

To have Puskas say, "well played son . . ." means something.

He really knows what well played means.

South Melbourne Hellas plays class attacking football, the best in the league 40 metres from goal.

Last season in late season, they developed a will to win and won.

Perhaps they can do

it again this year.

I also saw Preston Makedonia play in Sydney on that same weekend.

They played APIA at that very interesting stadium Concord Oval, sometimes referred to as the great white elephant of NSW Rugby Union.

It has two huge stands either side of the green well grassed, but bumpy field.

The stands have coloured seating which runs in blocks, starting at one end with a block of red seats, followed by a block of grey, followed by fawn then yellow, then blue.

These magnificent, colourful, grandstands facing each other alongside the large, dark green playing field make this a special place to visit.

Paul McFadden, for APIA, perhaps affected by the Rugby Union aura that sweeps through the stadium, conformed late in the game to his positional name as a striker, by felling young Preston midfield Lou Bekiaris with as good an elbow to the chin as Concord Oval

has seen throughout the 'Ra-Ra' season.

If he had followed through a bit more he might have clouted the referee too, so close by was the ref.

McFadden is a Scot and the Scots play their soccer with great passion, sometimes uncontrolled passion.

Perhaps Paul was affected by watching the Scottish 'Bonnie Lads' doing great things in the World Cup of Rugby Union televised here extensively in recent weeks by ABC.

Whatever his excuse, one doubts if it will impress Apia coach Manfred Schaefer.

Manfred's Teutonic origins allow very much for aggression, but very little for uncontrolled aggression.

Paul can expect a consequence for his moment of Rugby Union madness at Concord Oval.

Manny these days is beginning to assume some of the proportions of the modern Puskas, but in his case it causes him to look more like a sumo wrestler, or when he hunches his shoulders over his knees when things are going wrong for Apia, a sorrowful, brown haired bear.

Yet Manny, on the quiet, has got a good side together.



Ray Richards (left) and Manfred Schaefer — comrades in arms in the heady days of the 1974 World Cup finals.

den and another international, Rod Brown was replaced late.

Manny served his coaching apprenticeship as a player under Frank Arok, who was no respecter of persons.

Manfred was once dropped by Frank Arok in a crucial cup game and threatened to throw Frank over the fence into the crowd.

He also took international defender Graham Jennings off to replace him with the unfortunate Paul McFad-

den and another international, Rod Brown was replaced late.

Like Puskas, Schaefer is different from the many coaches who have come through the coaching schools, of which I profess to be one.

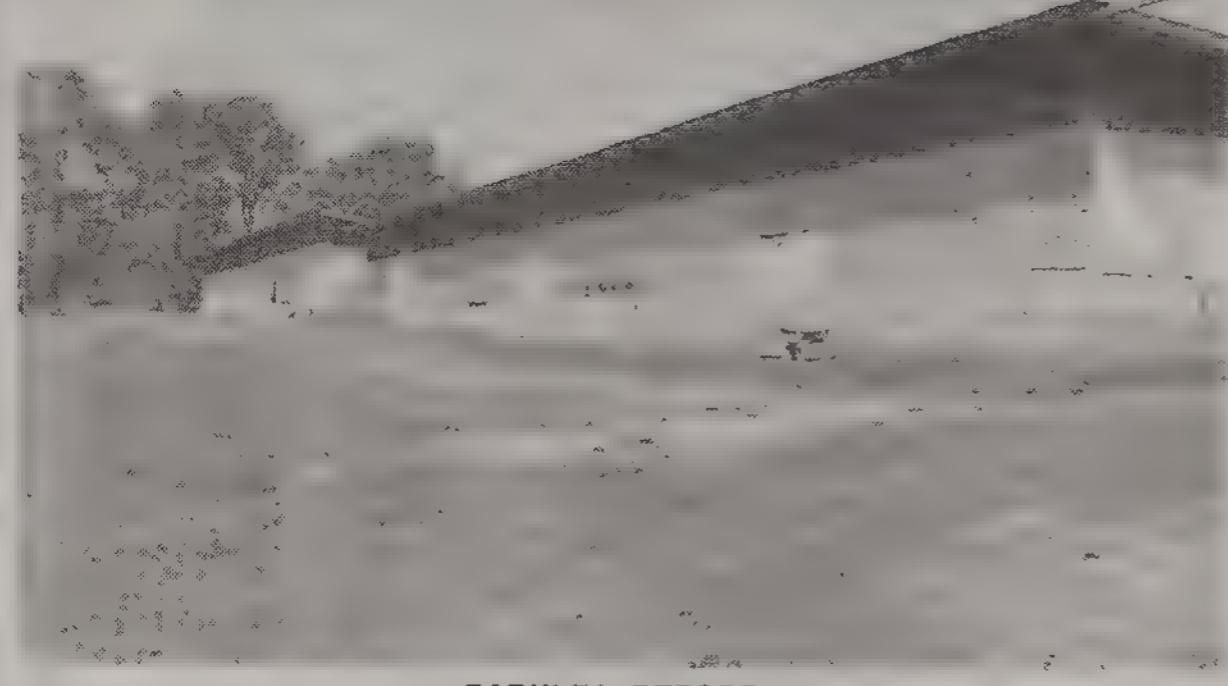
But the coaching and management of soccer can be as varied as human beings.

Schaefer's compatriot, Franz Beckenbauer, did not go to soccer school either, but like Puskas and Schaefer he attended the world class university of international soccer.



Hellas coach Ferenc Puskas on the bench.

A Valentine dream that has come true



PARKLEA: BEFORE



PARKLEA: AFTER

MANY people have contributed to the success of the NSW Soccer Federation down the years, but few if any could claim to have done more than Charles Valentine.

The fact that the Federation owns a magnificent 27 hectare property complete with offices, indoor stadium, extensive motel unit accommodation, swimming pool, 300 space carpark and football fields is attributable to the vision of that one man.

Backed up, of course, by the support of countless others down the years — and not the least by the assistance of his wife Joan.

Now living quietly in retirement in the Sydney northside suburb of Castle Cove, Charlie Valentine can look back on a remarkable era of land purchase, development, salesmanship and public relations as the project was put together.

Apart from the present sports complex, in a few years' time the NSW Soccer Federation will have a development of 176 blocks of residential land for sale, which will bring in some \$9/10 million for the benefit of the sport.

All due to the foresight of that one man, aided by the people who came in to share his vision.

NSW Federation general manager Peter Thorne commented: "When we have the funds it will be possible to aid NSW clubs on the

basis of approved proposals — whether they are from the NSW Federation or the National League — to improve their grounds.

"Clubs can augment their cash with ours, and then have a case for low interest loans from the Department of Sports and Recreation.

"This is a few years ahead, but the benefit to the game will be immense."

Born in Brooklyn in the United States, Charlie Valentine fished the swamps that were later converted into the Kennedy Airport.

In fact, his sister still lives in the Long Island area.

The position stuck in his mind — "People have to go somewhere, and land is ultimately developed," he said.

World War II and 1942 saw him training in California. "We were shipped, we thought, to Hawaii, but ended up in Brisbane.

"From there I was sent to Melbourne, in the Military Police.

"After the war the Australian Government offered American servicemen the chance to stay on.

"I was one in 1,500 who decided to be discharged here, and settled in Sydney, where I first managed the US Army NCO's Club."

Going was tough in the early days when Valentine's Restaurant in Pitt Street, down near Liverpool Street, was established.

But the "Chicken in the Basket" became famous, and Charlie's brothers Richard and

Fred responded to the invitation to come out and join him.

The family bought land at Parklea for chicken raising, and at Charlie's behest they parted with the first valuable 15 acres for a song in order to set up the soccer presence for coaching kids in the game.

Successful as a residential property developer, Valentine's Restaurant was sold and he began his project to provide a lasting home for NSW soccer.

Bill Vrolyks, now living in retirement at Ettalong Beach on the NSW Central Coast, proposed securing a site for a Soccer Academy.

Actually, the first nationally designed course was held at the then Swedish Seaman's Sports Centre at North Ryde in January 1969.

The technical committee consisted of Joe Vlasits, Denes Adri-gan, C. Tatters, Jock McBride, Joe Venglos and George Schott, with Andrew Dettre as the organiser.

Handling the medical side were Drs Brian Corrigan and Ivor Davis.

The initial 15 acres were augmented by another 15, then 23 and finally another 15.

With the active support of then NSW Federation president Peter McCann, the profits from successful tours such as Manchester United, Manchester City, Glasgow Rangers, Sunderland and Norwich City was ploughed back into land purchase.

All subsequent presi-

dents beginning with Tom Grimson, Les Fairclough, Karel Rodny and John Constantine, supported the project.

The NSW Coaches' Federation, with people like Andy McLaughlin, Cec Campbell, Jim Bellwood, Eric Arneil, David Lee and many others to the fore, was later replaced by the system of Coaching Directors.

The first Parklea live-in course was held from 16/21 May 1971, and the accommodation consisted of converted chicken sheds.

Charles Valentine received support from the State Government and then Sports Ministers Ken Booth and Michael Cleary, battling to secure grants of \$30,000/40,000.

Help came from Blacktown City Council and its engineering staff as well as local MLA, John Aquilina.

A list of those who responded by making interest-free two-year loans totalling \$30,458.24 reads C. Valentine, K. Rodny, Australian Coaches Federation, G. Warner, P. Coleman, B. Le Fevre, O. Pick, A. Henderson, A. Brown, A. Pongrass, Dr G. Bauer, Dr D. Sheps, A. Basic, J. Thomson, Sir Arthur George, L. Brown, Dr K. Bosnic, F. Parsons, Auburn Soccer Club and M. Alagich.

Typical of the group of coaches who were on the job 20 years ago were Jim Livingstone, Andy Clues, John Jancek, Dave Mathie, as well as Barry Davis, the current editor of

Coaching Review.

People like Charlie Fleming, Jock Aird, Luciano Nesti, Joe Marston and Mick Jones were also involved.

It was Peter Coleman who first put the idea to Charlie Valentine of securing the support of the Local Government Engineers.

Valentine followed it up and the annual field day demonstrations of earthmoving equipment from 1980/1986 saw the pitches and the land developed without cost to the NSW Soccer Federation.

Back in 1972, Charlie Valentine had been appointed treasurer of the NSW Soccer Federation and it is not long since he relinquished the post.

He also served as treasurer of Manly-Warringah and Artarmon clubs, and had a strong

connection with Pan Hellenic, which was succeeded by Sydney Olympic.

The big leap forward came in 1985, when NSW Premier Neville Wran, on a visit to open the complex, promised a donation of \$1 million.

Sports Minister Michael Cleary told Valentine "I don't think you will ever get it," but the quietly persistent Valentine saw that the Government shelled out.

Valentine followed it up and the annual field day demonstrations of earthmoving equipment from 1980/1986 saw the pitches and the land developed without cost to the NSW Soccer Federation.

Back in 1972, Charlie Valentine had been appointed treasurer of the NSW Soccer Federation and it is not long since he relinquished the post.

The entire 27 hectares cost the NSW Federation some \$300,000, and today money simply could not buy it.

Working quietly in the background over the years was Mrs Joan Valentine.

When camps were on she often ran the huge kitchen on an honorary basis from 5am to 11pm.

Also often assisting in the early days were Richard and Clara Valentine.

What a magnificent contribution to the youth of the State!

The work, begun by Charles Valentine, was again recognised by the NSW Government this year.

Sports Minister George Souris handed NSW Soccer Federation president Peter Gray a cheque for \$180,000 to assist work at Valentine Sports Park at the Presentation Night on October 11.



Charles Valentine (right) with former NSW Premier Neville Wran.

The Ethnic Cup semi-finals

BY MARIO
ETCHART

Assyria and Argentina will meet in the final of the 8th Ethnic Soccer World Cup, next Saturday at Garside Park, after their respective wins over Spain and Mexico. In the O/35s, Colombia will face Ireland.

ASSYRIA 2 SPAIN 1

The brilliance of striker Norman Tome made the difference in a very hard fought match that ended in a 2-1 Assyrian victory over Spain.

Tome scored one goal and played a big part in the second, netted by replacement Nelio Borges.

Assyria will face Argentina, next weekend, in the 8th Ethnic Soccer World Cup grand final.

Assyria clearly dominated the first 30 minutes. The midfielders controlled the centre of the park and the strikers created several chances, some badly finished while others found an inspired Hans Trostel, the Spanish goalkeeper, who had an excellent game.

However, the Assyrians only managed one goal in the first half.

After only five minutes of play, Spirovski served a corner from the right, the Spanish defence reacted late and Tome, unmarked in the centre of the box, opened the score with a short drive.

Spain improved in the last fifteen minutes and midfielder Encinas, with a header equalised in the 40th, ending Assyrian goalkeeper Farrar unbeaten record, after 400 minutes without conceding a goal.

Spain, with the strong wind behind, started better in the second half, but found it difficult to overcome a solid Assyrian defence where Gaffney, Farrar, skipper Younan and Gillan had outstanding games.

But the mobility of Tome and replacement Nelio Borges was a constant nightmare for the Spanish defenders.

Five minutes before the end Tome, after an excellent individual effort, put Borges through; the striker skirted a Spanish defender and with a low shot beat goalkeeper Trostel to score the winner.

A well deserved victory for Assyria, because without doubt it was the best team on the park.

Norman Tome was man of the match while midfielder Encinas and goalkeeper Trostel were the best in Spain.

ASSYRIA: Farrar, Younan, Gillan, Gabriel, Grubba, Gaffney, Tome (Goldstein 89th), Corapovski, Wells (Borge 45th), Grimaldi, Spirovski.

SPAIN: Trostel, Belmar, Salinas, Arregui, Palma, Encinas, A. Villenzo, Cespedes (Diaz 40th), C. Villazon, Locaputo, Pereyra.

ARGENTINA 4 MEXICO 0

A hat trick from man of the match, striker David Batten, paved the way for Argentina's 4-0 victory over a disappointing Mexico.

The Argentines earned a berth in the grand final after their very solid performance against the Mexicans in the second semi final.

The Mexicans were frustrated by a well composed Argie defence that never allowed them to play their fluent game of short touches and constant positional interchanges.

Although Mexico dominated the initial 20 minutes, the rock solid Argentine defence well marshalled by Ashton Porter and Driene, kept the Mexican strikers at bay.

On the other side of the park, Argentina had two clear chances and both ended in the Mex-

ican net.

In the 31st minute, Driene crossed a ball from the left flank and Batten, with a great volley, left goalkeeper Felio wandering.

Nine minutes later, Porter, after a good run on the right crossed the ball to the left and Batten, again, with a cracker added the second.

Two excellent build ups with remarkable finishing.

In the second half, Mexico, inspired by Donoso's efforts tried hard, but the brilliant midfielder lacked support and all his hard work was to no avail.

In the 76th minute, after a good combination between Berry, McKie and Batten, the latter with a powerful volley from the edge of the box, put Argentine 3-0 in front.

One minute before the end, Berry after a good individual effort, beat three defenders and converted the fourth with a crossed shot from the right.

The Argentines were worthy winners and reached their first Ethnic Cup final in eight years. A well deserved one.

ARGENTINA: Jenkins, Battaglia, Driene, Porter, Ashton, Borello, Berry, Markovski (Nunez 76th), McKie, Ivanstanin (Bradley 60th), Batten.

MEXICO: Feliu, Porta, Calderon, Urrutia, Ortega (Garcia 76th), Donoso, Pena, Aravena, Kouriel, Lozano, Borge (Ortiz 55th).

OVER 35s

Ireland and Colombia will meet in the O/35s final of the Ethnic Cup.

Ireland defeated Chile 1-0 in the first semi final.

In the second semi final, Colombia came twice from behind to finally beat Greece in the penalty shootout.

Greece was 1-0 in front until the last minute of the match.

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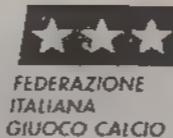
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ITALY

WITH
TONY PALUMBO

New coach and new team!



New Italian National coach Arrigo Sacchi (left) and former boss Azeglio Vicini (right).

Arrigo Sacchi will announce his first squad on Thursday and Italian newspapers are already speculating as to who will be missing from the squad that former national coach Azeglio Vicini selected for the ill-fated Moscow trip. According to Italian pundits the players most likely to be axed are Giannini, Schillaci, De Agostini, Mancini and Berti.

Juventus midfielder Stefan Reuter has had a cartilage operation to his right knee. He will be out of action for the month of November and should be ready for the match against Roma on December 1st. Incidentally, Juventus have their own specialist for this kind of operations, professor Manlio Pizzetti. Most Italian First Division clubs send their player to France or to professor Perugia in Rome.

Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni has joined the list of people who offer suggestion to newly-appointed National coach Arrigo Sacchi. He says Sacchi shouldn't do without defender Carrera who can play at full-back, stopper or sweeper.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Pagliuca has found a solution to his team's defensive problems. He has changed the colour of his shirt: from black to light blue.

Corrado Orrico, the

coach chosen by Inter to replace Trapattoni, is in trouble again. His team managed the impossible in a Cup tie against Third Division Como. Not only did Inter need to own-goals from Como to beat their lowly opponents' defence but they also managed to squander the lead. Inter had to settle for a 2-all home draw which drew furios protests from the few supporters who had bothered to go to the match.

Italian "experts" have not been short of advice for Sacchi. Some of the suggestions are quite bewildering. For instance, Antonioli and Peruzzi, two goalkeepers who cannot even command a spot in their own team. Antonioli is understudy to Rossi in AC Milan whilst Peruzzi, just back from a suspension for drug use, is sitting on the Juventus bench.

An amazing record for Renica, the former Napoli sweeper who has signed this season

for his hometown club, Verona. In eight matches he has been sent off three times. Verona are likely to dispose of him, also at the insistence of local fans. Verona have the dubious distinction of having the most racist fans in Italy and they refuse to "forgive" Renica for having played in a team from the South like Napoli.

One foreign player who is performing as expected is Lazio's German import Riedle. In 40 matches he has scored 12 goals, a very good tally against the ever so tight Italian defences.

Fiorentina spent a total of \$26 million to sign forwards Borgonovo, Batistuta and Branca. So far the three combined have scored two goals.

The best goalkeeper in Italy at the moment? Lorieri from bottom of the table Ascoli. He has had 16 goals scored against him in the first eight matches of the season.

Fabio Capello's choice as a successor to Arrigo Sacchi may have raised a few eyebrows when it was announced. But the number of his critics is getting thinner by the hour. Hawk-eyed statisticians have discovered that never before has Franco Baresi's team scored so many points in so few matches. AC Milan scored 12 points out of a possible 14 in its first seven matches of the season.

Life is getting tough in Bari for David Platt and Frank Farina. The team is languishing near the bottom of the competition table and the two imports are coping criticism from both soccer writers and supporters. Farina, in particular, can count himself lucky that Brazilian Joao Paulo broke his leg. Otherwise the former Australian international would have been "cut" to make way for Croatian Boban. Bari are getting the Yugoslav international on loan from AC Milan.

8th Edition Ethnic Soccer World Cup GARSIDE PARK, GRANVILLE

★ FINALS ★
SATURDAY

ASSYRIA vs ARGENTINA

6PM

O/35'S COLOMBIA vs IRELAND

2PM



NOTE: AA (All Age) 0/35 (Over 35's)

3RD & 4TH PLAYOFFS

SATURDAY

SPAIN vs MEXICO

3.30PM

O/35'S GREECE vs CHILE

12.30PM



Latest overseas results & tables



ITALY

Ascoli 1 Cremonese 0, Fiorentina 1 Cagliari 0, Foggia 4 Bari 1, Genoa 0 Atalanta 2, Lazio 1 Juventus 1, Milan 4 Roma 1, Napoli 2 Sampdoria 1, Parma 1 Verona 1, Torino 0 Inter 0.

STANDINGS

Milan	14
Juventus	13
Napoli	12
Lazio	11
Torino	11
Foggia	11
Roma	10
Parma	10
Genoa	9
Atalanta	9
Fiorentina	9
Sampdoria	8
Cremonese	5
Cagliari	5
Verona	5
Ascoli	4
Bari	3

NEXT ROUND:
Atalanta v Fiorentina, Bari v Lazio, Cagliari v Parma, Cremonese v Foggia, Inter v Ascoli, Juventus v Torino, Roma v Napoli, Sampdoria v Milan, Verona v Genoa.

SPAIN

Logrones 2 Barcelona 2, Coruna 0 Real Madrid 3, Albacete 0 Gijon 2, Burgos 1 Sevilla 0, Mallorca 1 Bilbao

2, Espanol 0 Valladolid 2, Real Sociedad 1 Cadiz 0, Orio 2 Valencia 2, Atletico Madrid 1 Osasuna 0.

STANDINGS: Real 15, Atletico 14, Burgos 12, Gijon 11, Zaragoza 10, Sevilla, Barcelona 8.

GREECE

Iraklis 1 Panathinaikos 0, Apollon 1 Panionios 0, Athinaikos 2 Ethnikos 1, Korinthos 3 Xanthi 1, Larissa 0 AEK 2, Serres 1 Doxa 1, PAOK 1 OFI 0, Pierikos 0 Aris 2, Olympiakos 5 Panathinaikos 2.

STANDING: Olympiakos 12, AEK 12, Apollon 12, Panathinaikos 10, Doxa 10, Iraklis 10.

FRANCE

Caen 4 Toulon 1, Nantes 0 Le Havre 0, Nimes 1 Rennes 2, Sochaux 0 Paris St Germain 2, Toulouse 1 Lille 0, Auxerre 1 Monaco 1, Lens 1 Cannes 1, Marseille 4 Nancy 0, Metz 1 Lyon 1, St Etienne 1 Montpellier 1.

STANDINGS

Marseille	24
Monaco	21
P. St Germain	21
Caen	19
Metz	18
Nantes	17
Le Havre	17



Franco Baresi in action for Italy.

PORTUGAL

Chaves 3 Beira Mar 0, Famalicao 3 Braga 1, Guimaraes 3 Farense 1, Porto 0 Benfica 0, Torreense 2 Salgueiros 0, Pacos Ferreira 3 Uniao da Madeira 0, Sporting 2 Gil Vicente 0.

STANDINGS

Guimaraes	14
Benfica	14
Boavista	14
Porto	13
Sporting	13
Braga	11

GERMANY

Borussia M. 1 Borussia Dortmund 1, Schalke 1 Dynamo Dresden 1, Fortuna D. 3 Bochum 0, Hansa Rostock 1 Cologne 1, Karlsruhe 4 Hamburg 1, Bayer L. 0 Nuremberg 1, VfB Stuttgart 3 Stuttgart Kickers 1, Duisburg 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 6, Wattenscheid 0 Bayern Munich 0, Werder Bremen 0 Kaiserslautern 2.

STANDINGS: Eintracht 2, RKC Waalwijk 2 PSV Eindhoven 2, VfB Stuttgart 20, Kaiserslautern 20, Bayer Leverkusen 19, Borussia Dortmund 19, Nuremberg 18, Duisburg 18.



HOLLAND

Fortuna Sittard 2 Vitesse Arnhem 2, FC Groningen 2 MVV Maastricht 2, RKC 16, Utrecht 15, Roda 15.

USSR

(Final Round)

Spartak Moscow 2, Metallurg Zaporozhe 1, Chernomorets Odessa 1, Pamir Dushanbe 0, Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk 1, Pakhtakor Tashkent 3, Lokomotiv Moscow 1, Spartak Vladikavkaz 2, Dynamo Minsk 0, Ararat Yerevan 0, Torpedo Moscow 1, Dynamo Kiev 0, Metallist Kharkov 3, CSKA 2.

FINAL STANDINGS:
CSKA 43, Spartak 41, Torpedo 36, Chernomorets 36, Dynamo Kiev 35.

ROMANIA

Petrolul Ploiesti 4 FC Brasov 1, FC Bacru 1, ASA Electromures 1, Corvinul Hunedoara 0, Rapid Bucharest 0, FC Inter Sibiu 1, Steaua Bucharest 1, Dinamo Bucharest 2, Dacia Unirea Braila 2, Farul Constanta 1, Universitatea Craiova 0, Electropitri Craiova 1, Otelul Galati 0, Sportul Studenesc 2, FC Arges Pitesti 2.

STANDINGS

D. Bucharest	20
Petrolul P.	17
S. Bucharest	14
U. Craiova	13
E. Craiova	13
Otelul	13
FC Bacru	12

SOUTH AMERICA with Mario Etchart

A win first up!

BRAZIL gave new national coach Carlos Alberto Parreira a winning start when they beat Yugoslavia 3-1 in a friendly on Thursday and produced a performance which showed there is still life in the country's soccer.

Brazil needed a win and good showing in their first match under Parreira after being humbled by Wales in their last match, losing their South American title earlier this year.

They got both thanks mainly to their captain Rai, who scored one spectacular goal, set up another and orchestrated the team's best attacking moves from midfield.

"The win was important because it will give us confidence and Brazilian soccer needs confidence at the moment."

said assistant-coach Mario Zagalo afterwards.

Brazil took an eighth minute lead through Luis Henrique who held off Vujovic's challenge to score after collecting a backheeled pass from Rai.

Yugoslavia struck back immediately with a breakaway goal by Lukic and then caused Brazil some worrying minutes with dangerous counter-attacks.

Brazil regained the lead on the stroke of half-time when Rai collected a Yugoslav half-clearance on his chest and scored with a shot from 30 metres.

In the second half, Yugoslavia, clearly exhausted after a marathon 24-hour plane and coach trip, faded badly and substitute Muller added a third goal for Brazil in the 74th minute.

But it was a disastrous night for Brazil's contro-

versial winger Renato Portaluppi, who mishandled several passes, missed an open goal in the second half, was booed by the crowd and ended up being substituted.

BRAZIL: Carlos, Luis Carlos Winck (Cafu), Antonio Carlos, Marcio Santos, Lira, Mauro Silva, Rai, Luis Henrique, Babeto (Valdeir), Renato Portaluppi (Muller), Elivelton.

YUGOSLAVIA: Omerovic, Vujovic, Nadjoski (Babuski), Novak, Jugovic, Mijatovic, Jokanovic, Savicic, Mihailovic (Curcic), Luzic, Milanic (Stanic).

★ ★

Result of a South American Supercup semi-final first leg match played last Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro:

In Buenos Aires: River Plate of Argentina beat Penarol of Uruguay 2-0 (halftime 2-0).

Scorers: Hernan Diaz (16th minute), Juan Jose Borrelli (29th).

More Brazil worries

AS if dwindling crowds, sub-standard regional leagues and poor national team results were not enough, Brazil now has another serious problem — there is nowhere for children to play football.

Pelé, Garrincha, Rivelino and Zico, to name but a few, all learned their skills in "peladas", informal matches played on improvised dirt pitches.

There was no worry about winning, no coaches to inhibit them.

It was the ideal way for their national skills to develop.

But in the last 10 to 15 years, Brazil's cities have ballooned in the most disorganised fashion and the dirt pitches have been built on.

In the suburbs of Rio such as Penha and Campo Grande, areas which once hosted 20 or 30 pitches are now occupied by blocks of flats.

The only place for

children to play football in most parts of Brazil are the "escolinhas", coaching schools often run by professional clubs.

And in these escolinhas, the emphasis is on physical preparation, marking, etc.

Natural talent is not being allowed to flourish as before.

Children go to escolinhas at a very young age and their ability is inhibited.

Meanwhile, the old problem of players going abroad is getting worse and worse.

Among the leading players who have just gone are Careca III (from Palmeiras to Atalanta), Mazinho II (Brazil

gantino to Bayern Munich) and Ricardo "Dick Dastardly" Rocha (Sao Paulo to Real Madrid). Mauro Silva, Bragantino's bulky midfielder, was also rumoured to be heading to Italy.

The difference nowadays is that it is not just the best players who are leaving.

The Europeans are taking anyone and everyone, often buying the players up when they are young at bargain basement prices and then reselling them for astronomical fees later on.

Sao Paulo captain Rai, who himself has pretensions of moving abroad, says: "Previously, players only went to Europe after establishing themselves in Brazil. But the European clubs have discovered it is cheaper to buy them when they are young.

"There is no comparison between the wages. But it is not just the money.

"It is also the chance to play in a well-organised championship with top players from other countries."

The most striking example was the recent sale of Elber, the Brazilian forward who shone at the recent World Youth Cup in Portugal.

He has already been snapped up by AC Milan . . . at the age of 18.

GREEKS ALIVE AFTER 2-0 WIN

Greece kept alive their hopes of qualifying for the European Championship finals with a 2-0 Group 3 win over Finland in Athens last Wednesday.

Saravakos, in the 50th minute, and Borbokis, two minutes later, were the scorers.

Greece have now played six games and have nine points, the same as Portugal, who have played two more games, and four behind leaders Holland, who also have seven matches to their credit.

Greece will qualify for Sweden if they win their remaining three matches — against Holland at home, and Malta and Portugal away.

In a game that only had academic interest, Hungary were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Norway in Group 3, which will almost certainly be won by the USSR.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

• The African Football Confederation is about to launch another club competition, based on the UEFA Cup. Called the CAF (the Confederation's initials in French) Cup, it will be open to all clubs that finished second in their domestic leagues. Africa already has a Champions' and a Cup-Winners' Cup.

• Belgian First Division club RWD Molenbeek have sacked their Czech coach, former international Ladislav Novak. He was fired after only seven weeks at the helm. His temporary successor is Freddy Smets.

• US national team coach Bora Milutinovic is not afraid to innovate. He selected three members of the US under 17 World Cup team in his 'A' squad against Jamaica recently — Mike Slivinski, Mark Jones and Nelson Vargas.

• Nacional Montevideo have sacked coach Juan Carlos Blanco. His replacement is a vet — Raul Moller. Ain't life a bitch when you are a soccer coach...

• Spanish side Real Sociedad, coached by John Toshack, signed their fourth foreign player last week. He is Yugoslav striker, Meho Kodro, 24, from Velez Mostar.

• Tanaz Tirpan, former coach of the Turkish national team, is the new boss at First Division Samsunspor, replacing the sacked Mehmet Ali Cinar.

• Famed Yugoslav coach, and former great player, Dragan Sekularac, is now coaching a club in Saudi Arabia — El Nasr.

• North Korea created a shock by defeating the USA 2-1 in Washington, DC — a rare defeat for the next World Cup hosts since being taken over by miracle-working coach Bora Milutinovic.

• Czechoslovakian international Josef Chovanec has returned home. After three and a half seasons with PSV in Holland, the 31-year mid-fielder-cum-defender has rejoined Sparta Prague.



MARCO VAN BASTEN

Did you know that Marco van Basten has never failed to convert a penalty kick since joining Milan? As we went to press, the Dutch ace had scored 16 out of 16 penalties for his Italian club, including six in Coppa Italia games and four in European competitions.

EURO-92

RUI BARROS: not as successful this season with Portugal as he is with his club, Monaco, in France. Portugal are almost certain to miss a berth in the Euro-92 finals.

COSY CELEBRATION OR HELL?

THE organisers claim the 1992 European Championship finals will be a cosy celebration of soccer but, after a hot summer of petrol bombs and home-grown hooliganism, many Swedes are far from convinced.

Swedish officials were shocked when a delayed action smoke bomb hidden under the pitch detonated during a First Division game last July in Norrkoping — one of four venues for the eight-team finals to be played next June.

Twenty three people were arrested in post-match fighting between fans of IFK Norrkoping and AIK Stockholm.

The Police have no illusions about the problems ahead.

"Our own fans will be just as big a problem at the finals as the notorious English and Dutch. Make no mistake about it," said national police chief Bjorn Eriksson recently.

His officers in riot gear have fought running battles against soccer hooligans hurling petrol bombs this summer, dispelling any fantasies foreigners may have that all Swedes are as calm and well-behaved as the country's tennis stars.

AIK fans, the self-styled "Black Army", are also blamed by police for frequent trouble at Stockholm's Rasunda Stadium — another of the venues for the June 10-26 finals.

After a 4-1 defeat to local rivals Djurgarden on September 30, about 1,000 AIK fans attacked police with rocks and petrol bombs.

Eighteen people were arrested that night.

Soccer hooliganism used to be known in Europe as "The English Disease" and Eriksson said Swedish violence followed the pattern set in England in the 1970s and early 1980s.

A total of 4,762 police will be assigned the task of weeding out the hooligans from an ex-



pected 100,000 visitors.

They want to avoid any repeat of the unruly behaviour which broke out during last year's World Cup finals in Italy and during the last European finals, in Germany in 1988.

Games will be played in Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmo and Norrkoping. Spectator capacity will range from 22,000 to 40,000, a far cry from the huge crowds at recent top soccer events.

"The European finals will be a homely and genuine affair," said organisation chief Lars-Christer Olsson.

usual.

There are also more controversial plans to stop foreign hooligans at the borders, to list Swedish trouble makers in a central computer register and to make mass arrests if necessary to prevent riots from breaking out in the first place.

Security arrangements will ultimately depend also on which seven countries join Sweden in the finals.

The \$30 million dollars cost of providing security and the drain on scarce police time and resources is also controversial in Sweden, a country with only 8.4 million inhabitants.

When a serial rapist spread panic in Stockholm recently, the city's police chief had to try and justify on television why only eight officers could be assigned to the case when hundreds of police were attending a training course for the finals.

For Eriksson, it is a matter of national pride for the police to look good next summer.

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP IS ZAMBIAN ACE'S GOAL

ZAMBIA's credible third-place finish at the African Nations' Cup finals in Algeria last year was a shock to their star performer, Kalusha Bwalya, the PSV Eindhoven winger.

He had to watch as his amateur teammates easily did without him in victories over Cameroun and Kenya, and went on to a play-off win over Senegal to reach third spot.

Injury had ruled out Bwalya, and with Charles Musonda held back by Anderlecht through club commitments, it was a mainly home-based outfit.

For the first time, Zambia proved there was more to their success than Bwalya's dribbling skills and fine touches, and Musonda's midfield genius.

There would be no more easy rides again into the national team for the two European-based professionals.

Since the mid-80s, Bwalya has been the glamour boy of Zambian football, securing a professional contract in Belgium with Cercle Brugge in 1985, after heading the list of scorers at home with Mufulira Wanderers.

He helped to give African football one of its finest days, at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

That was when Zambia put four goals past an Italian side including Tacconi, De Agostini, Ferrara, Carnevale and Virdis.

Bwalya scored three and was immediately on the Italian shopping list, his face peering out from the sports pages and his goals being replayed over and over again on Italian TV.

Calling

But the big move did not materialise until PSV Eindhoven came calling at the start of the 1989-90 season and took him to Holland as forward cover for the likes of Wim Kieft, Fleming Povlsen and Brazilian Romario.

Bwalya's participation was limited then, but for the past 18 months he has played much more and has scored plenty of crucial goals.

His top priority now is to find the consistency for PSV he showed at Cercle Brugge and on the international stage, and help the club retain their title and put together a better run in Europe than the debacle against Montpellier in last season's UEFA Cup.

The menu also includes January's African Nations' Cup in Senegal, where a restored Bwalya will again be the main attraction for the



KALUSHA BWALYA: his goals can propel Zambia to African supremacy.

Zambian team, albeit this time in the knowledge that a run of poor form could easily cost him his place.

Lamptey, will be the favourites, but then countries like Algeria and Egypt are also very strong.

And you can't forget Cameroun after their fine performance at the World Cup finals in Italy."

For many of the players competing in Senegal, the African Nations' Cup provides a launching pad for a professional career in Eu-

rope or the oil-rich Gulf states.

For Bwalya, that priority no longer exists — but there is another motivation: respect.

"I don't need to show off for European agents or clubs. I'm playing there for my country and for my name.

I'm well known in Africa so I'm there to earn respect. And to win!"

MOROCCAN WHINGE

The Moroccan soccer authorities have sent a strong protest to FIFA over reported statements by president Joao Havelange that Africa is not capable of staging a World Cup.

Morocco is one of the candidates to stage the 1998 World Cup and the authorities suspect the Brazilian chief of favouring France in the contest.

Havelange said airports, transport, hotels and communications would be a problem for African candidates, in an interview with France Football magazine last month.

Arab Football Union secretary general Othmane Saad said Havelange was showing a clear bias toward France and the Royal Moroccan Football

Federation has sent a letter of protest to FIFA.

A telex which promised \$50 million from the New York Chemical Bank for Jean-Pierre Deroze in his bid to save French club Bordeaux was a fake.

The source of the telex, which enabled Deroze to briefly seize the presidency of the stricken club in February, is to be investigated.

GEORGIA ON THEIR MIND...

THE Soviet republic of Georgia is still waiting to hear from FIFA to know whether they can become a full member of the world body.

For Georgia, having broken away from the Soviet Football Association and formed their own federation, have not yet been accepted by the world ruling body.

But there is a strong belief within Georgia that it will not be long before their country is welcomed by FIFA and clubs such as Iberia Tbilisi — formerly known as Dinamo Tbilisi — are back in European soccer.

For the moment, though, life is tough for Georgian Federation chairman Nodar Akhalkatsi and national team manager Giga Norakidze.

There are three divisions and four regional groups within the Georgian Federation and 107 teams competing. Iberia Tbilisi are the champions.

But the Georgians played under the Soviet system, starting in the spring and finishing in the autumn.

They wanted to change that by starting in autumn and finishing in

spring, so the second Georgian season was cut short.

That lasted only during the spring, allowing clubs to start a third season in August with a November-March break for the winter, and the season will finish next May.

Akhalkatsi scored a lot of goals for Army Club (Tbilisi) and Lokomotiv during his playing days, although he is now a rather portly figure.

Battling

But he is still battling fiercely for the good of Georgia and soccer, saying: "the most important thing is that the Football Federation is independent.

"Russia put forward a lot of obstacles to block our progress, but the reason we parted from the Soviet FA was not to hurt anybody, but just for ourselves.

"We have our own players and we can survive and flourish on our own. Moscow try to block us by making it difficult to obtain footballs and kits, but we battle on.

"There is no way out for us now but to win the argument".

Akhalkatsi adds: "Our football history goes back 100 years to the time when English

sailors from Liverpool brought the game to us. They landed from the Black Sea in the 1890s and football grew from there.

"We have had a lot of famous footballers who grew up in Georgia and went on to play for the Soviet Union. Now we want talent for our own team."

Manager Norakidze, who has the task of forming a team able to compete in World circles when the time comes, is a former inside-forward with Spartak Tbilisi, and is rated the top coach in Georgia.

He was coach to Torpedo Kutaisi (now Kutaisi FC) and Dinamo Sokhumi (now Tskhumi) on the Black Sea.

Norakidze, now in his 60s, had success with both before becoming Georgian national team manager.

Since taking that post he has had two matches in charge, drawing 2-2 against Lithuania and winning 4-2 against Moldova.

"The Soviet Union are making it difficult for our players to go out and play against teams from other countries", says Norakidze.

"But we can have a good team in the future. We have the players to do well and we can achieve some success".



The new whiz kid of Italian football, Gianfranco Zola (right) Napoli tangles with Ascoli's Marcato.

Brain-dead

"I am not going to talk to you because you have a very small brain".

Italian soccer referee Angelo Amendola faces disciplinary ac-

tion after he owned up to telling Napoli's Alemao in no uncertain terms what he thought of the Brazilian's protests during Napoli's 1-0 home loss to Juventus recently.

SWISS SKORO

Torino's Yugoslav striker Haris Skoro is joining Swiss First Division side FC Zurich for \$500,000 after failing to make his mark on Italian football after three years.

SWEDISH STAR SEEKS A LOW EURO-92 PROFILE



JONAS THERN

SWEDISH football is highly thought of abroad, but the reputation it has for a somewhat stiff style of play is really rather exaggerated.

That's the view of midfielder Jonas Thern, 24, the Swedish captain, who plays professionally for Benfica in Portugal.

"In my experience there's a great respect for Swedish football in the rest of Europe, despite what happened in the World Cup in Italy," says Thern.

"Many people are impressed above all by our tactical qualities.

"And we are regarded as very tough mentally."

The fact that in terms of skill Swedes cannot measure themselves with central and southern Europe is something they have come to terms with, according to Thern.

But he asserts at the same time that something is happening even on this score and that the Swedish team of today relies on a much greater degree of skill than previous teams did.

"Look at a player like Anders Limpar," says Thern.

"It's hard to find such natural talent in either southern Europe or Brazil."

"Anders is almost unique in terms of his skill."

"There's hardly another player in the world with the same close control at high speed."

Jonas Thern himself is among the players who have contributed to Sweden's more entertaining football, compared to previous eras.

Is his talent natural or is his skill the result of hard training?

"It was certainly blessed with a certain amount of talent," says Thern.

"But I've always tra-

ined hard. When I was at school, back home in Värnamo, we were always playing football out in the garden or in the streets."

"When I later moved to Malmö, to a football school, we had a trainer, Bo Augustsson, who gave a high priority to skills training. I'm very grateful for that today," says Jonas Thern.

What's the reason for this new trend in Swedish football?

"I think that managers of Swedish clubs have begun to see football in a different light over the past few years, and we're beginning to



REFIK SABANADZOVIC — Greece's AEK will look for the former Red Star Belgrade midfielder's inspiration against Spartak Moscow in the UEFA Cup this week.

see the results of training methods, where there's more emphasis on working with the ball and less on running and physical strength," says Jonas.

Sweden's national team has been successful in the months since Tommy Svensson took over as manager.

How good is Sweden compared to the best teams in Europe?

"Even though we've had some good results during 1991 I think we'd be wise to keep a low profile," says Jonas Thern.

"The competition is tremendously tough and small margins can be decisive."

"Personally I think that Germany, in the long run, is the best team in Europe."

"After that it's difficult. At our best we can beat most countries."

"But there are also many that can beat us. We shouldn't be over confident before the European Championship, even if we will be at home."



Norrköping's Swedish international Jan Hellstrom takes a tumble — like his club against Monaco in Round 2 of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

East German Scandal

Four years ago, the East German authorities vehemently denied western press reports that the country's top football team, Dynamo Berlin, had bribed and connived its way to prominence.

Now all of these allegations — and more — have been validated.

A British television programme, "On The Line", has uncovered an amazing scandal.

"I remember our cup final against Dresden in 1983.

The score was 1-1 late in the game. Our forward Hans Jürgen Riediger was well offside, but was allowed to score the winner.

"Another time we were awarded a penalty which was so ridiculous the whole stadium laughed.

"Rainer Ernst put the ball on the penalty spot and I remember watching and thinking: 'I hope he doesn't score'."

Jürgen Bogs, who coached Dynamo through much of that era, knew that assistants were appointed whose task was to spy on the club personnel rather than direct coaching.

Hidden microphones and informers would even be planted in the hotels where Dynamo's European Cup rivals stayed.

When the GDR fell apart, so did the Stasi and Dynamo had, overnight, lost their guardian angels.

What followed was predictable: they changed their name to FC Berlin and quickly slipped into the sad anonymity of the amateur-based German third division.

Mielke, in a prison hospital, awaits trial on a string of offences.

Meanwhile, Rudwaleit looks back with regret.

— from WORLD SOCCER

Albanians in Pools-mania!

Albania, cashing in on revived interest in gambling, plans to expand recently legalised football pools to make more money for sport.

Albania, which banned all betting and gambling during the 1960s, was admitted to the international lottery organisation Inter-toto last month.

"In fact, 39% of the pools income goes to the clubs but this is certainly not enough and we intend to start a lottery for this purpose," said Kasem Seferi from the Albanian Olympic Committee.

Scarcely more than a year ago, soccer pools — once dubbed by British leftists as a "tax on the dreams of the poor" — were a crime in Albania.

People were punished for organising secret sweepstakes.

At least 20 Tirana youths were either imprisoned or sentenced to forced labour in the mid-1980s for participating in illegal betting on the Italian championship.

But in June last year, the Albanian government, harassed by mounting budget difficulties, finally decided

to organise official lotteries to help pay for declining sports.

"This was the only form of entertainment at that time and it was like a ray of hope for the hopeless youth," said Seferi, who is chief of the lottery section at the Olympic Committee.

About 80,000 soccer pools forms were sold in the first few weeks of the new venture.

One winner netted 50,000 leks (\$2,520).

The average wage is under 1,000 lek (\$40) a month!

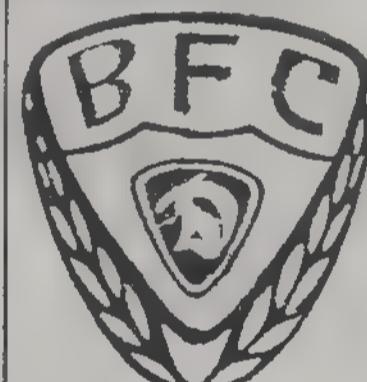
But the government decided to set a limit on prizes to prevent people from making a fortune.

Many Albanians looking for capital to take advantage of the small-scale privatisation just starting in the country hope the lottery will provide it.

One salesman who won 13,200 leks (\$US568 (\$A718)) on the pools said he hopes to buy the state shop where he works.

"Poor people are more inclined to believe in lotteries because this gives them hope," Seferi said.

"We simply have to encourage them to play more."



"On The Line" researchers, in the wake of the collapse of the Berlin Wall and East Germany's Communist regime, went into the old headquarters of the hated secret police, the Stasi.

By accessing the Stasi computer system, they turned up all manner of proof that the East German championship had been manipulated in Dynamo's favour.

Top of the sinister pyramid was Stasi General Erich Mielke.

He controlled officials, transfers and refereeing appointments.

Top FIFA referee Adolf Prokop was one of those servants on the Stasi payroll at 30,000 marks a year.

Freed from fears of hidden microphones, several of Dynamo's old stars spoke frankly about their manipulated success — and the embarrassment it caused them.

Giant goalkeeper Bodo Rudwaleit said:



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

RANGERS GO FOR MAXWELL

RANGERS are set to pinch Scottish Cup goalkeeping hero Ally Maxwell from Graeme Souness.

The Ibrox side want 26-year-old Maxwell after a series of expensive blunders by £1 million signing Andy Goram.

And though former boss Souness has the out-of-contract Motherwell keeper on loan at Liverpool for three more weeks, Rangers are keen to move quickly.

After Goram, their only experienced goal-

And Durrant is ready to head south

keeper is veteran Dave McKellar, signed from Carlisle after Chris Woods left for Sheffield Wednesday.

Meanwhile, midfield ace Ian Durrant is set for a shock move OUT of Ibrox.

Claim

Mo Johnston's old French team Nantes

want him on loan for the rest of the season but face competition from Queens Park Rangers.

Durrant, who scored for the reserves in their 3-2 win over Celtic on the weekend, has failed to claim a regular first-team place since returning from his horrendous knee injury.

Rangers are keen on the idea of him joining QPR to play alongside former favourite Ray Wilkins.

Johnston, linked with a big money move to Leeds, stayed on the bench at Ibrox on the weekend.

NO ROOM FOR NICK

GORDON DURIE's Scotland reprieve could cost Charlie Nicholas his comeback chance.

Andy Roxburgh's men are desperate for goals against San Marino in the European Championship tie on Wednesday week.

But even though Charlie has been in prime scoring form for Celtic, he's still behind Durie, Ally McCoist and Mo Johnston in Andy Roxburgh's plans.

Durie, who has been fined £1,000 by Tottenham after being sent off against West Ham last week, is almost certain to start against the Euro minnows.

Set for a shock Hampden return, however, is Everton winger Pat Nevin. Scotland No. 2 Craig Brown checked him out against Luton on the weekend.

Nevin, linked with Celtic when he was out of the Goodison team earlier this season, had his last international appearance against San

Marino in May.

He came on as a second-half sub and impressed Roxy so much by turning the game for the Scots that he'll be brought back.

Meanwhile, Roxburgh will be included in the three man SFA task force to appeal against UEFA's orders for a 3.30 kick-off.

The appeal is set to go ahead with Roxy revealing on the weekend that talks with the Swiss FA who want the

"The Romanians' one-week leeway is far worse," said Roxy.

DEIN SUNDAY 'NO'

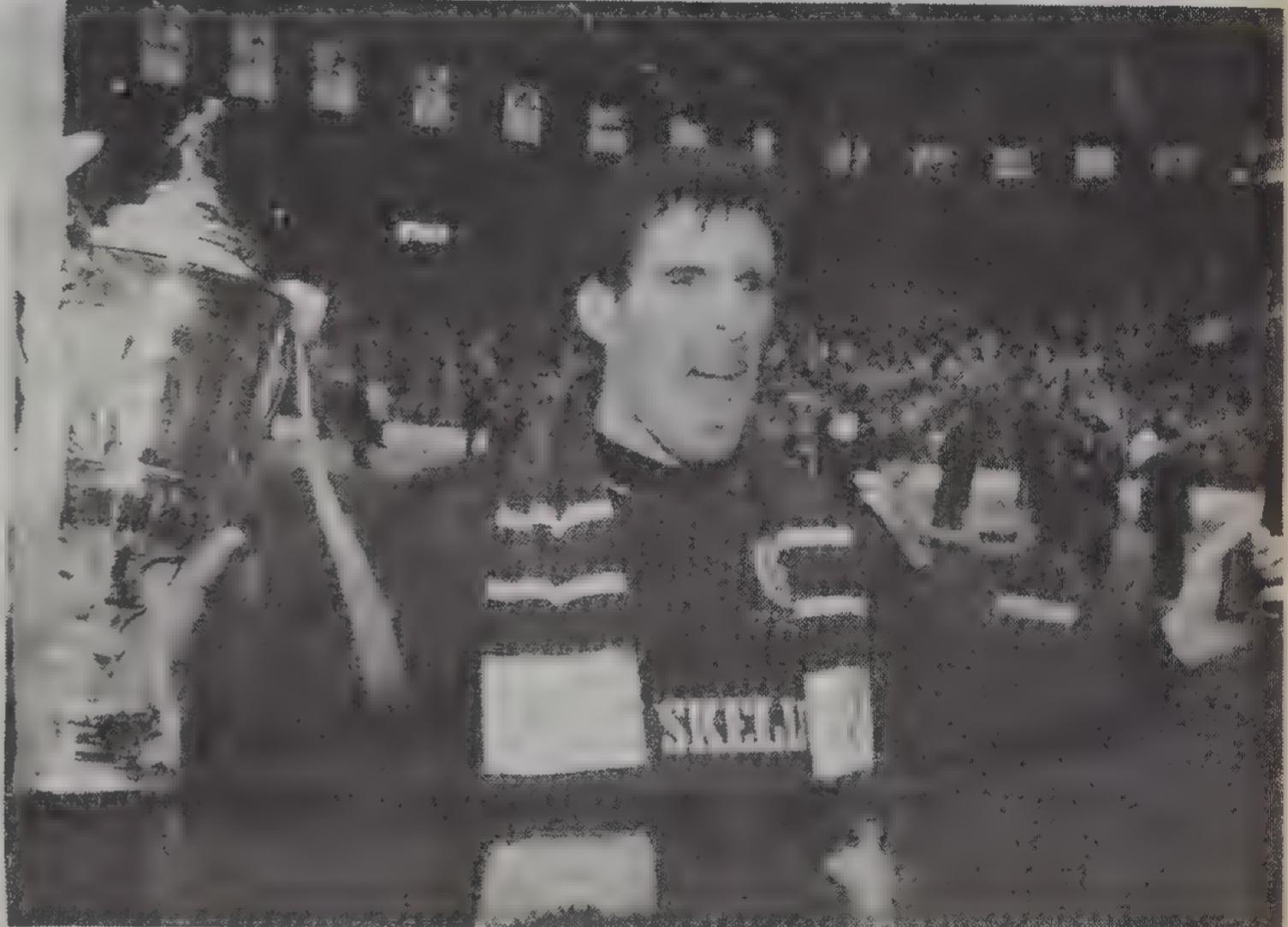
DAVID DEIN is throwing his weight behind the "never on Sunday" campaign, writes Martin Leach.

People power has convinced the Premier League supporter it would be wrong for the new set-up to abandon the traditional Saturday play next season.

Dein, Arsenal's vice chairman, says: "We believe it wouldn't work on a Sunday. And there's no point in our imposing something on fans when they don't want it."

A recent Capital Radio poll showed a 50-50 split over switching to Sunday and there's no reason to suppose a nationwide vote would be any different.

Dein also believes transport problems and increased police costs are other reasons to say no to Sunday. There is also increasing pressure from the players who don't want Sunday lost as a family day.



ALLY MAXWELL

IT'S ANDY FOR DONS

ABERDEEN are favourites to sign striker Andy Thomson when Queen of the South are finished with the B&Q Cup.

The 21-year-old Palmerston hitman with 13 goals behind him this season will be a target for top bosses in Tuesday's semi-final against Ayr United . . . with Blackburn's Kenny Dalglish among them.

Kenny would like to make the Motherwell-born marksman his first signing from Scotland and Chelsea have also made inquiries.

Queens will want at least £100,000 for

Thomson, who was signed two years ago from Motherwell youth team Jerviston BC.

"It's only a matter of time before Andy moves to a leading club and when he does he'll go on to be capped," forecasts Queens' boss Ally MacLeod.

The Dons are also being linked with another Tommo — Brechin City midfielder Scott Thomson (19) who was signed last year from Shrewsbury.

Meanwhile, Ally MacLeod's son Andy will join Dundee United this month as a physio.

He has been the manager of a sports injury clinic in Canada and

previously had a short spell working for Dumbarton and his dad's old club Ayr United.

★ RANGERS are set for a Stateside jaunt next summer.

They have SIX invitations, including two for games against the US national side as part of their 1994 World Cup build-up.

★ But Ibrox boss Walter Smith admits: "The only snag is that most of the invitations want us for pre-season matches."

★ Oleg Kuznetsov and Alexei Mikhailichenko will miss next week's Dunfermline match — they are on European duty in Cyprus.

Saints back trouble

ST MIRREN are set to lose two full-backs.

Fraser Wishart, who asked for a move last weekend, is a £150,000 target for Millwall, while Tom Black's £50,000 move to Kilmarnock is likely to go through this week.

■ Former Scotland skipper Billy Bremner has quit as boss of the English League's bottom club Doncaster.



England class: Matthew Le Tissier

MIKE CHANNON, the old England footballer who turned to training horses, has his eyes on an exciting young thoroughbred.

His owner's colours are red and white stripes, he runs mostly on Saturdays and Channon wants to aim him at some of the greatest prizes in sport.

Winners

His name is Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton's Channel Islander, whose fellow football pros voted 1990 Young

Player of The Year.

If you stuck his name in the field this year, his breeding line would read: 'By Passed, out of Form.'

But Channon, who spends his life in search of winners, would have him on the starting line every time. Especially for an England team that keeps leaving its finest performance on the gallops.

Capped 46 times by

England, the last

against Switzerland in

1978, 42-year-old

Channon has always

loved a good football

argument, and when he

talks of Le Tissier's ex-

clusion from England squads, he shouts almost as loudly as the 30 horses in his boxes at Lambourn.

Channon says:
"Most footballers are like racehorses. Ninety per cent are useless."

"Le Tissier is part of the 10 per cent who make the whole thing work. Perhaps useless is a bit strong. They are good pros but they're workhorses."

"They are there to set things up for people like Matthew to perform their magic. The trouble with our game is we've started to regard

great players as a luxury.

"Why do you think Bobby Charlton was able to stand out so well? Because he had Nobby Stiles to do his tackling and Alan Ball to do his running."

"Matthew can win a match with a dip of his shoulders. He's the best young player in the country, bar none."

"Some say he goes missing during games. Some even say he's overweight."

"But they used to say that of Forest's John Robertson in my day, and he told me: 'I was only fat when we were losing.'

"We have to gear everything to getting players like Matthew into areas where they can do the most damage."

"The same goes for people like John Barnes and Chris Waddle."

"They're no good stuck out wide on the halfway line."

Priceless

"We've got to get them running at people 10 yards outside the opposition box. They never get the ball early enough — only when everybody else has finished with it."

"That's why Ball was such a good international player. He only needed half a touch to move the ball on."

"People like Barnes, Waddle and Gazza should be match winners. Goal scorers like Gary Lineker are different. They finish things off."

"But what I call match winners produce something out of nothing. Now that Gazza's not there, England are in greater need of people who can make things happen."

"Those type of players are priceless and Le Tissier, whatever is happening to him at Southampton these

MICK CHANNON
reporting from the stalls on a thoroughbred winner for Europe

Soccer's top racing man

days, is still one of them."

"He'd be better off playing for England than Southampton. If he and Gazza were selected for a World XI, they'd be naturals."

"That's why Ball was such a good international player. He only needed half a touch to move the ball on."

"Channon is responsible now for choosing horses for courses. He's successful with almost 50 winners in 18 months, including a £250,000 race at The Curragh with Affair of State."

"He bred You Know The Rules himself to win more than £100,000 in prize money from four victories."

"Channon knows the rules, too. He's the boss and the buck stops with him when his charges run below expectations."

"But when it comes to England, he's reluctant to apply the same principle to manager Graham Taylor and his old Southampton boss Lawrie McMenemy."

Risks

"It's not a management problem," he added. "With the exception of Le Tissier, they keep picking the best players in the country."

"It's the players' fault. They are negative and don't like accepting responsibility."

"They don't want to take any risks and give the ball away. They can't move it quickly and positively."

"They might have greater security, better contracts and more agents than in my day, but they've lost something more important."

"We had Player Power. If things were going wrong on the field, we would change them."

"That why Channon would love to see Le Tissier and Under Starter's Orders."



BRED FOR ENGLAND!

Time Taylor gave Le Tissier a run

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Soccer's top racing man

Strong

England's European championship decider in Poznan next month revives painful memories for Channon, denied a place in the 1974 World Cup Finals by Poland.

But he sees little chance of a similar scenario this time.

"England are 10-1 on in my book to qualify for Sweden," he said.

"Remember, last time we had to beat Poland. This time England only need to draw."

"England are strong in those situations, solid and have players you can rely on."

"It's when we have to go out and win something and win it well that the problems start."

"That why Channon would love to see Le Tissier and Under Starter's Orders."

The first round draw for FA Cup

THE draw for the first round of the English Football Association (FA) Cup:

Stockport v Lincoln City, Hartlepool v Shrewsbury, Witton Albion v Halifax, Chester v Guiseley, Runcorn v Tranmere, Scunthorpe v Rotherham, Chorley or Emley v Bolton, Mansfield v Preston, Bury v Bradford City, Darlington v Chesterfield, Scarborough v Wigan.

Morecambe v Hull, Huddersfield v Lincoln United, Wrexham v Winsford, Bridlington v York, Gretna v Rochdale, Blackpool v Grimsby, Stoke v Telford, Burnley v Doncaster, Carlisle v Crewe, Brentford v Gillin-

gham, Baldock Town or Halesowen v Farnborough.

Bournemouth v Bromsgrove, Swansea v Cardiff, Kidderminster v Aylesbury or Chesham, Leyton Orient v Welling United, West Bromwich v Marlow, Horsham or Crawley v Northampton, Peterborough v Gravesham and Northfleet or Harlow.

Merthyr Tydfil or Windsor and Eton v Woking, Maidstone v Weymouth or Sutton United, Fulham v Hayes, Slough v Reading, Aldershot v Enfield, Yeovil v Walsall, Colchester v Exeter, Atherton v Hereford, Kettering or Stafford Rangers v Wycombe, Barnet v Tiverton, Torquay v Birmingham.

To be played on Saturday, November 16.

Backdown by Davie!

ST MIRREN manager Davie Hay has withdrawn his threat to fine his players a week's wages after their 5-0 home drubbing in the Scottish Premier Division by Celtic last Saturday week.

Following a protest by the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, who said they would back the Saints players, Hay opted instead to put his squad

through the mill on the training ground.

Hay said: "I think I've said enough and now I'll let the players speak for themselves on the field. There's a limit to how hard you can whip them."

"Maybe now they will show they have commitment and pride in their performance to fight back."

JACK'S LADS

THE Republic of Ireland's chances of qualifying for next year's European Championship finals were dealt a

severe blow when midfield dynamo Andy Townsend was ruled out of the vital qualifier against Turkey in Istanbul on November 13.

The Chelsea captain had to undergo a hernia operation and is expected to be sidelined until the beginning of next year.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said: "We just want to get on with it and get him fit again as soon as possible."

"He has been carrying the injury for some time now and has been finding it increasingly difficult."

"It is best we get it sorted out, but obviously it's a blow for us."

"It's not a management problem," he added. "With the exception of Le Tissier, they keep picking the best players in the country."

"It's the players' fault. They are negative and don't like accepting responsibility."

"They don't want to take any risks and give the ball away. They can't move it quickly and positively."

"They might have greater security, better contracts and more agents than in my day, but they've lost something more important."

"We had Player Power. If things were going wrong on the field, we would change them."

"That why Channon would love to see Le Tissier and Under Starter's Orders."

This week's fixture list

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 6

Second Division
Newcastle v Cambridge
Watford v Oxford

Third Division
Exeter v Bradford
Huddersfield v Fulham
Reading v Darlington
Torquay v Bournemouth

Fourth Division
Hereford v Halifax

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 8

Second Division
Tranmere v Plymouth

Third Division
Stockport v Shrewsbury
Swansea v Bournemouth

Fourth Division
Aldershot v Cardiff
Doncaster v York

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9

Second Division
Barnsley v Bristol R



STUART McCALL

Third Division
Brentford v Wigan
Bury v Bolton
Exeter v Stoke
Hartlepool v Fulham
Huddersfield v Birmingham
Hull City v Chester
Peterboro v Bradford C
Preston v Darlington
Reading v West Brom
Torquay v Leyton O

Fourth Division
Barnet v Halifax
Burnley v Mansfield
Chesterfield v Blackpool
Crewe v Wrexham
Gillingham v Maidstone
Hereford v Rochdale
Northampton v Lincoln
Scarboro v Carlisle
Scunthorpe v Rotherham

Scottish Premier
Celtic v Aberdeen
Dundee Utd v Hibemian
Dunfermline v Rangers
Falkirk v St Mirren
Hearts v St Johnstone
Motherwell v Airdrie

Scottish First
Hamilton v Dundee
Kilmarnock v Meadowbank
Montrose v Clydebank
Morton v Forfar
Raith v Ayr Utd
Stirling v Partick

Scottish Second
Albion R v Alloa
Berwick v Dumbarton
Brechin v Stenhousemuir
Cowdenbeath v East Stirlng
Q Park v East Fife
Stranraer v Arbroath

BYRNE BLAST FIRES ROKER

SUNDERLAND 3 WATFORD 1

JOHN BYRNE
smashed two goals
as Sunderland
romped to their
best home win of
the season.

But the Roker outfit
were set on their way by
a terrible clanger by
England Under-21 star
David James.

The £1.5m keeper,
brought off the transfer
list but earmarked for a
move to Liverpool at
the end of the season,
clearly had other things
on his mind when he
made a hash of a 13th-
minute cross from Gordon
Armstrong. And new signing
Byrne couldn't believe his
luck as he cashed in for
his 100th League goal.

Watford boss Steve
Perryman said: "David
has held up his hand and
taken the blame. If that
first goal hadn't gone in
we probably wouldn't
have been beaten."

It was only Sunderland's
third win in 12 League games.

And nobody enjoyed
it more than 30-year-
old Byrne, who looked
a snip at £225,000. Roker
boss Denis Smith said:
"He's worth the entrance
money alone. John is a class
act and the fans obviously
enjoyed seeing him. We
got the break, we needed
and that hasn't always
been happening this season."

Sunderland looked
full of running as they

raced into a two-goal
lead inside 21 minutes.

Byrne's gift was fol-
lowed by a second from
Armstrong after good
work down the left by
the former Brighton
striker.

And Byrne was firm-
ly established as a ter-
race favourite when he
raced on to a Paul Bra-
cewell through ball af-
ter 74 minutes to slot
home number three.

Watford's persist-
ence was rewarded
when Gary Porter grab-
bed a consolation goal
three minutes later.

BEST PLAYER: Byrne.



ALL THE RESULTS FROM BRITAIN

BARCLAYS LGE — DIV 1

ARSENAL	0	WEST HAM	1
HT 0-0	Att 33,630		
COVENTRY	0	CHELSEA	1
HT 0-1	Att 11,343		
LIVERPOOL	1	C PALACE	2
HT 1-0	Att 34,231		
LUTON	0	EVERTON	1
HT 0-0	Att 8,029		
MAN UTD	2	SHEFF UTD	0
HT 1-0	Att 42,942		
NORWICH	0	NOTTMRST	0
HT 0-0	Att 13,014		
NOTTSCO.	2	OLDHAM	0
HT 2-0	Att 7,034		
QPR	0	AVILLA	1
HT 0-1	Att 10,462		
SHEFFWED	0	TOTTENHAM	0
HT 0-0	Att 31,000		
SOTON	0	MAN UTD	3
HT 0-1	Att 13,933		
WIMBLEDON	0	LEEDS	0
HT 0-0	Att 7,025		

DIVISION 2

BLACKBURN	1	BRIGHTON	0
HT 0-0	Att 9,877		
BRISTOL	3	PVALE	3
HT 2-1			
CAMBUTD	0	BRISTOL	0
HT 0-0	Att 3,635		
DERBY	0	TRANMERE	1
HT 0-1	Att 11,501		
GRIMSBY	1	CHARLTON	0
HT 0-1	Att 4,743		
LEICESTER	2	IPSWICH	2
HT 0-0	Att 11,331		
MIDDLEBRO	1	SOUTHEND	1
HT 0-1	Att 9,604		
MILLWALL	1	PORTSMTH	1
HT 1-0	Att 6,060		
OXFORD	0	BARSLEY	1
HT 0-1	Att 3,419		
PLYMOUTH	1	WOLVES	0
HT 1-0	Att 4,200		
SUNDERLND	3	WATFORD	1
HT 2-0	Att 12,790		
SWINDON	2	NEWCASTLE	1

DIVISION 3

BIRMINGHM	3	TORQUAY	0
HT 1-0	Att 4,478		
BOLTON	1	READING	1
HT 0-0	Att 3,632		
BRADFORD	0	BRENTFORD	1
HT 0-0	Att 5,359		
CHESTER	3	PRESTON	2
HT 1-0	Att 1,219		
DARLINTG	4	HARTPL	0
HT 3-0	Att 5,041		
FULHAM	0	HULL	0
HT 0-0	Att 3,305		
LORIENT	1	EXETER	0
HT 0-0	Att 3,038		
SHREWSBRY	2	PETERBORO	0
HT 0-0	Att 1,866		
STOKE	0	HUDRSFLD	2
HT 0-2	Att 10,116		
WESTBROM	1	BURY	1
HT 0-1	Att 8,439		

DIVISION 4

BLACKPOOL	1	SCARBORO	1
HT 1-1	Att 3,097		
CARDIFF	2	SCUNTHRPE	2
HT 0-0	Att 2,395		
CARLISLE	0	GILLINGHM	0
HT 0-0	Att 1,672		
HALIFAX	0	BURNLEY	2
HT 0-0	Att 4,491		
LINCOLN	0	ALDERSHOT	0
HT 0-0	Att 1,737		
MAIDSTONE	3	HEREFORD	2
HT 1-2	Att 846		
MANSFLD	2	DONCASTER	2
HT 0-2	Att 4,180		
ROCHDALE	3	CHESTERFLD	3
HT 2-1	Att 1,852		
ROTHERRH	1	NORTHMPTN	0
HT 0-0	Att 3,146		

B & Q PREMIER

ABERDEEN	0	DUNDEE UTD	1
HT 0-1	Att 13,500		
AIRDRIE	0	FALKIRK	0
HT 0-1	Att 4,000		
HIBS	1	HEARTS	1
HT 1-1	Att 22,000		
RANGERS	1	CELTIC	1
HT 0-0	Att 37,367		
STJOHNSTNE	3	DUNFRMLINE	2
HT 1-1	Att 4,509		
STMIRREN	1	MOTHERWELL	2
HT 0-1	Att 2,689		

FORFAR	2	MONTROSE	2
HT 0-2	Att 623		
MEADOWBNK	0	STIRLING	1
HT 0-1	Att 252		
PARTICK	1	HAMILTON	1
HT 0-0	Att 2,642		

DIVISION 2

ALLOA	0	BRECHIN	0
HT 1-1	Att 342		
DUMBARTON	3	QUEEN'SPK	1
HT 1-1	Att 600		
EFIFE	1	CLYDE	2
HT 0-2	Att 848		
ESTIRING	2	STRANRAER	2
HT 1-0	Att 193		
QNOFSTH	3	COWDENBH	3</td



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

TOTTEN'S GAMBLE ON YOUTH PAYS OFF

ST JOHNSTONE 3
DUNFERMLINE 2

ALEX TOTTEN gambled on youth and came out smiling.

Even without seven first team players, he decided to drop experienced duo Sergei Baltacha and Ian Redford and afterwards praised youngsters Paul Dean and David Bingham.

"I'm very pleased with them even though they tired later on," said Totten.

"I am the manager and pick the side as I see fit and I decided to drop Redford and Baltacha."

Totten's side came back twice against bottom club Dunfermline who scored their first away goals of the season.

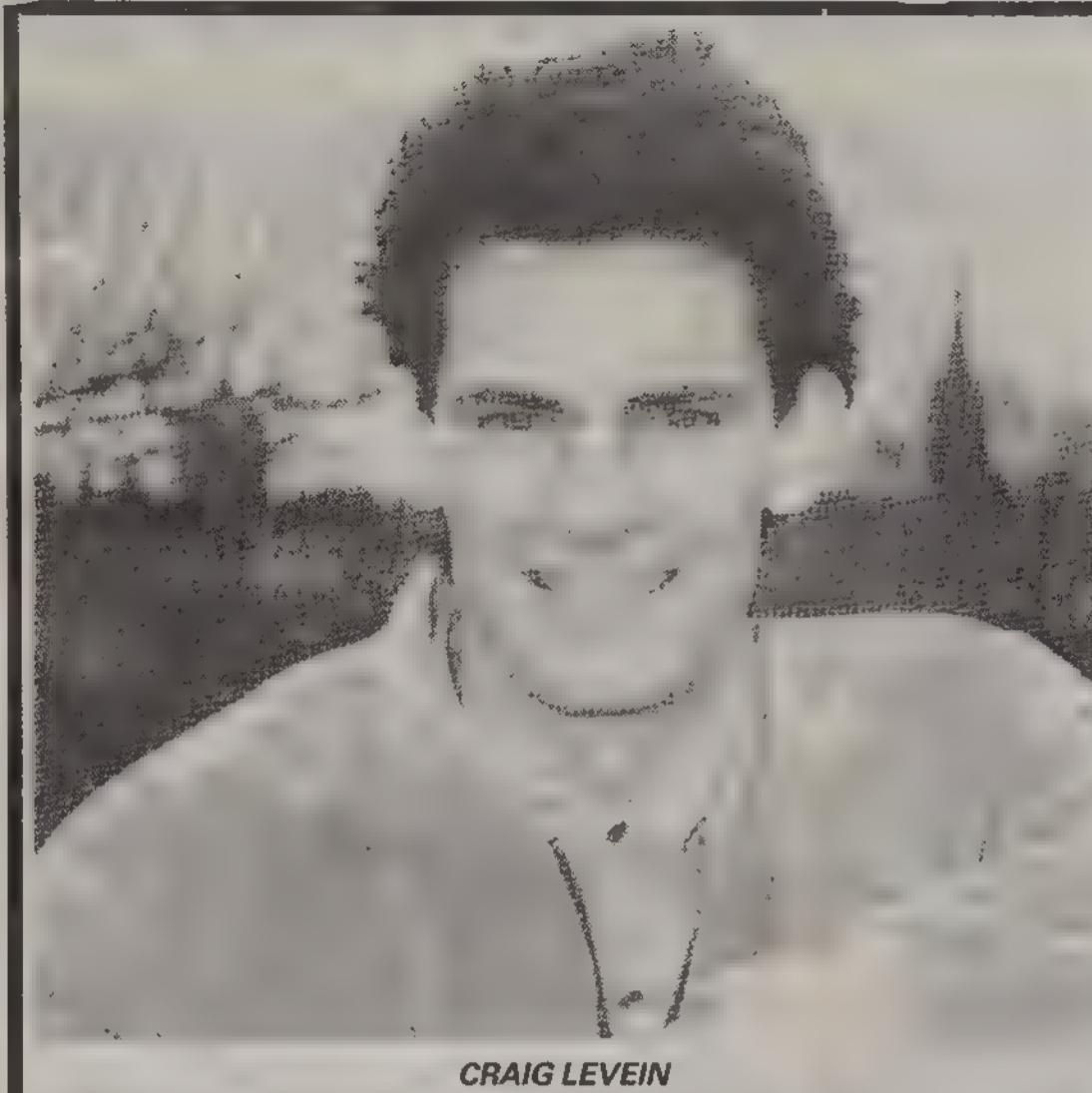
Scott Leitch sent a curling shot into the top corner after 34 minutes but Paul Wright swept home a Bingham header to equalise before the break.

Craig Robertson restored the Fifers' lead in 73 minutes but a minute later Bingham equalised with a first time shot from the edge of the area.

Harry Curran grabbed the winner, shrugging off a challenge to score from close in with a powerful shot.

Dunfermline manager Jocky Scott was unhappy with his defenders: "We were absolute murder. To score two goals away from home and come away with nothing is criminal."

BEST PLAYER: Wright.



CRAIG LEITCH

Baptie's so lucky

AIRDRIE 0
FALKIRK 0

CRAWFORD BAPTIE hauled Alan Lawrence back when the Airdrie striker was racing clear on 58 minutes.

But he was shown only a yellow card.

And Falkirk boss Jim Jefferies praised his players.

"After losing Brian Whittaker and Peter Godfrey this was a better point for us than Airdrie," he said.

Godfrey left on 24 minutes with a suspected chipped ankle bone and his defensive partner went off in the second half.

Sammy Conn was twice denied for Airdrie.

BEST PLAYER: Conn.

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SMITH OFF

HIBS 1 HEARTS 1

BORN AGAIN Hibs came within inches of notching up their first Edinburgh Derby win in almost three years after a blunder by Hearts' Henry Smith.

The big keeper dropped a Dave Beaumont free kick at the feet of Keith Wright in the dying seconds.

But with literally the last kick of the ball the £500,000 striker could only push his shot wide.

Chase

And Smith left the field sporting a huge grin of relief.

Hearts boss Joe Jordan was disappointed not to have picked up both points, but a draw put his side back on top of the Premier League and extended their unbeaten run in derby matches to 11.

Jordan said: "It is great for Scottish football that so many teams are involved at the top of the league. Last season it was all up to Aberdeen to chase Rangers but this year there are six clubs in the hunt at the moment.

"It is terrific to be back on top although there is still a long, long way to go."

Hibs were given a rousing reception as they took to the field

after their Skol Cup victory last week.

But they were silenced in just four minutes when John Robertson pounced on a Graeme Hogg header to rifle the ball past the helpless John Burridge.

It was the little striker's 18th goal in 25 derby games. But his strike left Hibs boss Alex Miller furious.

He fumed: "We had talked just five minutes before kick off about who was marking who in that area. And to find Robertson left unmarked was not good from our point of view."

With Gordon Hunter injured, Hibs' £110,000 signing from Luton,

SPLAT-MAN

RANGERS 1
CELTIC 1

IT WAS Rangers in blunderland again as Celtic snatched a point from a fierce Old Firm battle.

And baffled boss Walter Smith was left lamenting as his champs turned chumps dropped their fourth point out of a possible six in just eight days.

The agony was piled on this time as Nigel Spackman's bad back-pass gave Tony Cascarino the equaliser.

"This has been the nature of our season," moaned Smith. "Individual mistakes have cost us valuable points."

Revenge

Rangers looked to have scored the decisive goal through Ally McCoist's bullet-force header after 61 minutes.

The chance was carved out with a crossfield

pass from Mark Hateley which Gary Stevens swept into the goal mouth for McCoist to score.

It crushed Celts who had been enjoying their best spell of the game — but not for long.

They got their revenge just three minutes after Cascarino and Chris Morris came on in a double substitution for Charlie Nicholas and Joe Miller.

And, just as he broke his scoring duck against Hearts with his first touch as a sub last

month, Cas was in action almost immediately.

He saw his chance as Spackman made the fatal error of judgement and seized on it.

Rangers keeper Andy Goram was beyond criticism as the Celtic striker struck home.

Boost

Cas admitted: "Our punters have been different class with their patience. Scoring against Rangers has got to boost my confidence and I'll be looking for more goals, starting against Neuchatel on Wednesday."

Celtic boss Liam Brady said: "I wasn't happy about our first-half show but we deserved the draw and probably a bit more."

"It's a great boost for our UEFA Cup tie and it showed we've closed the gap with Rangers



MARK HATELEY

SAINTS ARE SINNERS

ST MIRREN 1
MOTHERWELL 2

TEN-MAN Motherwell picked up the points on the weekend with the help of two Saints sinners.

Roddy Manley turned a Davie Cooper cross into his own goal to give the Fir Parkers the lead, then keeper Les Fridge fisted the veteran

winger's corner into the net after the break.

Suffering Saints boss Davie Hay moaned: "That second goal really knocked the stuffing out of us."

"And you could say David Cooper really had two assists."

Motherwell manager Tommy McLean was forced to throw on both subs when Luc Nijholt and Ian Angus were crocked

after just 18 minutes.

And Dougie Arnott was stretchered off two minutes after the break with an ankle injury.

Arnott was taken to hospital for an x-ray while Nijholt and Angus both suffered calf muscle knocks.

McLean said: "From our point of view that sums up the season we have had with the injury situation."

"But in view of the circumstances I am pleased with the way they battled through the game."

Guri Torfason pulled a goal back for Saints with a long-range free kick which sizzled beyond Billy Thomson into the far side of the net, but despite a late rally they were unable to level.

The Love Street crowd of 2,689 is the lowest Premier gate this season.

BEST PLAYER: Cooper.



DAVID COOPER



We're top of the League for the B-I-G soccer stories

THE HOOK

Keith fails to punish Hearts

Beaumont, made his debut. But he and Tommy McIntyre did not hit it off in the centre of the home defence until the second half.

Miller said: "The two centre backs did not settle and we allowed Hearts a lot of good possession."

"I did not feel we started to play until the second half."

Blunder

"But full credit to the boys. They battled away and we had one or two openings that we might have capitalised on."

Robertson's goal had Hibs reeling but they pulled themselves back into the game through a blunder by Hearts defender George Wright.

The youngster was woefully short with a passback to Smith, allowing Keith Wright to round the stranded keeper and poke the ball home.

Both sides went all out for the winner but because of the frantic pace there were too many mistakes for either Smith or Burridge to be troubled too often.



Six players were booked — Hibs' Beaumont, Willie Miller, Gareth Evans and Graham Mitchell and Hearts' Hogg and Mackay.

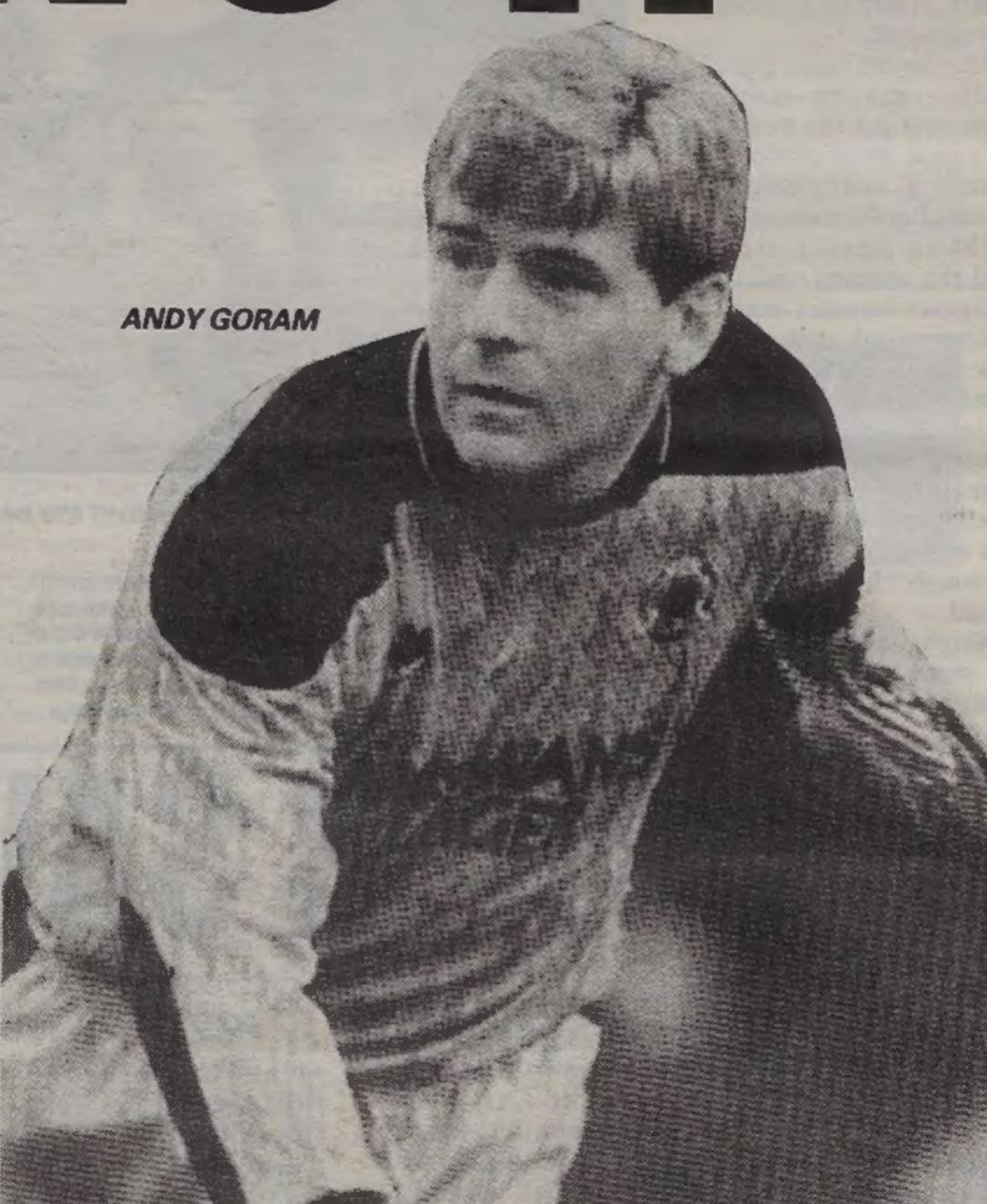
BEST PLAYER: Robertson.

■ The New Year's Day derby at Tynecastle will kick off at 7.30pm and be screened live on BSkyB.



MICKEY WEIR

ANDY GORAM



since the last Old Firm game."

Ibrox chief Smith revealed that midfielder Stuart McCall played after being laid low with food poisoning for the last two days.

But no-one would have guessed that from his gritty performance.

Rangers set a blistering pace in the kick and rush first half and at one stage forced five corners in as many minutes.

John Collins had to rush to the rescue to concede the first as Scot Nisbet cleverly dummied the ball to leave Pieter Huijstra with a chance.

Dariusz Wdowczyk made a goal-line clearance when McCoist was poised to score.

Chances

And with a Hately shot going wide, sad boss Smith was left summing-up: "There were chances to score one or two goals in that period."

But the game lived-up after the interval with McCoist nodding the Gers into the lead.

Celtic hit back with Cascarino's lucky strike and the action raged from end to end.

Skipper Paul McStay made an impact in Celtic's midfield to the extent of being booked

for a tackle on Spackman.

Team mates Brian O'Neill, Chris Morris and lone Ranger Nisbet also got yellow cards from ref Brian McGinlay.

Clash

Goram brought off good saves from Miller and Collins but, at the other end, Pat Bonner made the most impressive stop ten minutes from time.

Huistra crossed and Ian Ferguson, who had hardly been noticed, smashed the ball straight for goal — only for Bonner to deal brilliantly with the shot and deny Rangers a winner.

It was a sad day for comeback man Ferguson, who had to be helped off with a leg injury moments later to be replaced by Oleg Kuznetsov.

BEST PLAYER: McStay.

■ The reserve clash at Parkhead turned out a ding dong battle with Rangers emerging worthy 3-2 winners.

Ian Durrant put them in front after 20 minutes but a double from Gerry Britton gave Celts a half-time lead.

But Rangers hit back in the second-half with Gary McSweegan their scoring hero with two goals.

RANGERS invited me to watch the Old Firm action from the directors' box — but I turned out to be CELTIC's lucky charm ... again!

At my last visit to a Glasgow derby — last September — Celtic grabbed a 1-1 draw. On the weekend they did the same again and fully deserved to

do so.

When they have a bit of confidence they're a superb passing team, so it was ironic Rangers went ahead during Celtic's best spell.

At that point I feared Celtic's chances were gone. The only way I could see them equalising was through a mistake which is just what happened.

I was delighted it was Tony Cascarino who scored. I met him last year on a TV show and he's one of the nicest blokes you could hope to meet.

Personally, I must have been one of the few people at Ibrox who found the frenzied action relaxing — but only in compari-

McInally stunner has Dons rocking

ABERDEEN 0 DUNDEE UTD 1

A SUPERB Jim McInally goal knocked Aberdeen off the top of the Premier League.

United maintained their recent excellent Pittodrie record with a European-style display which frustrated the Dons.

It was the second time in a week the Dundee club knocked off the leaders — they beat Rangers on Tuesday. But the crucial goal came after a tragic error by Theo Ten Caat.

The Dutch midfielder gave the ball away to McInally who ran fully 30 yards before crashing it in off a post from the edge of the area.

It was a marvellous goal, and Aberdeen were clearly stunned by it.

United maintained their self-imposed gag, but a disappointed Alex Smith said: "We paid the penalty for slackness in the first half."

"We lost the goal through carelessness, a slack pass. Once United get in front they are difficult to pin back. But I felt with our effort and pressure we deserved something from the game."

The Dons were unable to mount serious attacks in what was a frustrating first half for them.

And when they finally got forward after the break they came up against the battling United defence who were in defiant form. Guido Van de Kamp was rarely troubled, though he had to dive low to stop a Peter Van de Ven 20-yarder nine minutes from time.

And veteran defender Dave Narey did well to rob Eoin Jess right in front of goal after a good David Winnie cross.

But for all Aberdeen's efforts they rarely looked like scoring.

In fact, the closest they came was before United's crucial goal when Paul Mason hit the side-netting.

And United striker Darren Jackson missed a glorious chance after he'd been put through by Ray McKinnon, but Theo Snelders pulled off a tremendous save.

The Dons fans felt they should have had a penalty when Mason slammed the ball against Maurice Malpas, but it hit the defender's chest.

BEST PLAYER: McInally.

Souness Anfield misery

LIVERPOOL manager Graeme Souness claimed he had been "mugged" after they were beaten 2-1 by Crystal Palace at Anfield in the English First Division.

Although Liverpool took the lead a minute before half-time through defender Glen Hyssen, Palace came storming back in snatched victory.

And Souness said testily, "I'm very disappointed because I felt we had played better than for a while in terms of possession."

"To give goals away like we did is very disappointing. I feel like I've been mugged."

Alex Ferguson's Manchester United went back to the top of the table with a 2-0 win over Sheffield United.

And Fergie said: "I'm delighted with the result because it stops a wee bad spell for us."

"We had a bit of luck with an own goal and a deflected shot for our second, but it evened out the misfortune we have suffered recently."

Here's STEPHEN HENDRY'S big-match reaction

I'm Celtic's lucky charm

son to how I spent last weekend.

Watching Rangers and Celtic was a lot easier on my nerves than winning the Rothmans Grand Prix!

Overall, not a bad way to spend a rainy afternoon. But Hearts can rest easy. There was nothing at Ibrox to worry the Jam Tarts!

ABSW — TOP OF THE WORLD

TORQUAY TORMENT

Birmingham 3 Torquay 0

LEADERS Birmingham left nobody in any doubt of their supremacy over Third Division bottom club Torquay.

■ The Blues dominated the first half but only went ahead in the 33rd minute with a Nigel Gleghorn penalty after Darren Rowbotham handled in the box.

Gleghorn later forced Torquay keeper Gareth Howells into a fine save following a 20-yard shot.

■ Torquay showed some spirit at the beginning of the second half when Dan Edwards went close on a

number of occasions.

Their best chance came in the 54th minute when, following a cross by Scott Collombe, Rowbotham forced keeper Martin Thomas into a good save.

■ But Birmingham were not to be denied and Simon Sturridge increased their lead in the 51st minute.

John Frain found Sturridge, and after the ball ricochetted off Matthew Elliott, Sturridge followed up to fire home.

■ Then the game was put beyond Torquay's grasp in the 72nd minute when Louie Donowa's left-foot shot gave Howells no chance.

Plymouth 1 Wolves 0

Plymouth ended a run of 10 League games without a win against a Wolves side who now have eight blanks to their credit.

A Dwight Marshall goal in the 35th minute settled it, and although they were far from convincing, Plymouth at

Dwight is dynamite

County striker, and Middlesbrough defender Nick Mohan, who are both mulling over moves in the West Country.

Their early impressions must have been doubtful as neither side produced a shot or an idea, in the opening stages.

Then Steve Morgan, the lively Plymouth midfielder, had two 20 yard shots deflected for corners in quick succession.

His side stepped up the pressure and should have gone ahead.

But Plymouth made the break-through 10 minutes before half-time with a well-executed goal.

Andy Clement crossed from the right, Mark Flore chipped it back and Marshall's firm header gave the keeper no chance.

Wolves staged a comeback after the break as Plymouth lost their shape at the back but they made few real chances for themselves.

Plymouth's poor run has at least been temporarily halted.

BEST PLAYER: Morgan.



GLENN HODDLE: despite his absence on the park, Swindon still won.

Swindon 2 Newcastle 1

STEVE WHITE rammed home his 12th goal of the season two minutes from time to complete a miserable County Ground return for Ossie Ardiles.

Fitzroy Simpson found Duncan Shearer in space and he drew the keeper before unselfishly putting White clear to slide the ball home.

Top scorer Gavin Peacock poached a 90th minute consolation for the visitors from Darren Bradshaw's cross but it was too late to put a smile back on Ardiles' face.

Dumped out of the Rumbelows Cup in midweek and now struggling near the foot of the Second Division, Newcastle and Ardiles now face a hard winter.

The former Swindon boss received a mixture of cheers and jeers as he took his place in the dug-out eleven months after leaving for St James Park.

And he must have been pleased with the way his young side settled and then took the game to Swindon.

But, after a quiet opening spell, Swindon's 16-goal striker

Shearer finally burst into life and it took two superb challenges from Kevin Scott to prevent him adding to his tally.

Swindon, still without injured player-manager Glenn Hoddle, had keeper Nicky Hammond filling the sweeper role when he raced from goal to beat Andy Hunt to a long through-ball.

The home side gradually took a grip on the game and got the boost of a goal when skipper Colin Calderwood struck after 41 minutes.

Shaun Taylor created the opening with a far-post header and Calderwood stooped low to nod the ball home.

Newcastle's attempt to harry Swindon out of their stride collapsed when their weary legs gave way halfway through the second period.

Wright kept them in the game with another great save but he was

helplessly exposed as White delivered the killer blow.

BEST PLAYER: Shearer.

SWINDON: Hammond, Kerslake, Summerbee, Jones, Calderwood, Taylor, Hazard, Shearer, Simpson, McLaren, White. Subs: Close, Feler.

NEWCASTLE: Wright, Bradshaw, Stimson, O'Brien, Scott, Appleby, Clark, Peacock, Howey, Hunt, Roche. Subs: Gourlay, Thompson.



PLYMOUTH: Wilmot, Salman, Clement, M. Marker, Hopkins, Morgan, G. Garner, Marshall, Scott, Flore, Gross. Subs: Edworthy, Evans.

WOLVES: Stowell, Ashler, Venus, Bennett, Madden, Downing, Birch, Cook, Taylor, Steele, Dennis. Subs: Thompson, Bellamy.

Cardiff 2 Scunthorpe 2
★ Striker Chris Pike was goal scoring hero and villain in the space of 10 minutes.

In the 14th minute, Pike met Nathan Blake's cross a yard out to put Cardiff 2-1 ahead with his eighth League goal of the season and sixth in three home games.

But 10 minutes later his joy turned to despair as he headed past Roger Hansbury in the Cardiff goal from Ian Helliwell's corner.

The equaliser was just reward for United, who had most of the possession.

★ City went ahead first after 65 minutes with Carl Dale's eighth goal in 12 games since signing from Chester City.

But Scunthorpe levelled two minutes later when David Hill headed in Graham Alexander's cross.

SKINNER SAVER

JUSTIN SKINNER cracked home a superb 25-yard shot to earn Rovers a point.

The record signing latched on to Andy Reece's free kick and hammered the ball into the top corner.

It was a hard earned draw for the struggling home side, who 24

hours earlier had put chief coach Dennis Rose in charge of team affairs until Christmas.

Striker Carl Saunders signalled his return from injury with two first half goals. But his impressive achievement was matched by Vale's Martin Foyle.

Saunders opened the home side's account after receiving David

BRISTOL ROVERS 3
PORT VALE 3

Mehew's knockdown from Steve Yates' long free kick in the 33rd minute.

Foyle equalised with a far post header before Saunders regained the lead for Rovers with a left-footed shot following a corner five minutes before the

break.

Slack defending cost Rovers dear 30 seconds after the break.

Vale's midfield man Robin van der Laan saw his shot well saved by Parkin but the ball fell to the unmarked Foyle who made no mistake from ten yards.

A brave header from Van der Laan put the Potters' side ahead on the hour.

But Skinner's stunning reply in the 72nd minute repaid all of Rovers' hard work.

BEST PLAYER: Van der Laan.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Parkin, Boothroyd, Twentyman, Yates, Cross, Mehew, Skinner, Reece, White, Saunders, Pounder. Subs: Clark, Purnell.

PORT VALE: Grew, Mills, Hughes, Porter, Aston, Glover, Swan, Van der Laan, Mills, Foyle, Jeffers.

Hesford Hereford stunner

Maidstone 3 Hereford 2

KEEPER Iain Hesford stunned Herford with a sensational 71st minute winner. Hesford heaved the ball upfield, the bounce deceived Hereford keeper Tony Elliott and the ball flew into the net.

But Hereford had made all the running as they cruised into a two-goal lead inside 13 minutes.

Steve Lowndes put them in front after just two minutes, tucking away a simple chance from Greg Down's through ball.

Then Down converted a penalty after Thompson handled.

Lowly Maidstone hit back with a 35-yard free kick from Gary Stebbing right on half-time.

Then Hesford took over. A long punt eluded the defence and Carl Richards fired home the equaliser two minutes into the second period. And his amazing goal sealed a superb fightback.

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MANCHESTER UTD 2 SHEFFIELD UTD 0

UNITED got the win they wanted to put them back on the First Division summit but their performance was a shambles.

And after keeper Peter Schmeichel's nightmare handling show, boss Alex Ferguson must consider putting Gary Walsh in against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday.

Dave Bassett's battling braves were the last outfit United wanted to face four days before their vital European Cup Winners' Cup crunch.

The Sheffield outfit have been bottom for all but four weeks of this campaign and it's not surprising with the luck they had here.

United got through on Jimmy Hoyland's 35th minute own goal and a 79th minute shot by Andy Kanchelskis which was deflected by John Pemberton.

Crashed

Ferguson even had to risk taking injured Bryan Robson and Gary Pallister off the bench to keep out the Blades.

When substitute Michael Lake crashed in an 18 yard shot. Robson seemed to throw up his arms to block.

And when a rebound off Schmeichel's knees from Hoyland's follow-up shot ran to Tony Agana, Paul Parker brought him down. But again they were given nothing.

The enraged Hoyland was booked for his protest and his frustrated skipper John Gannon followed minutes later into the book for a

SCHMEICHEL FLAW SHOW

crude assault on Parker.

Schmeichel's jittery start made happy viewing for any watching Spaniard.

The great Dane's handling left a big question mark against him and Bassett's greyhounds were quick to apply the pressure on him.

He also showed

hesitation at a crucial moment, putting Clayton Blackmore into trouble over a simple ball.

Then Schmeichel casually left a floating cross which Hoyland almost reached before it cleared the line.

Blackmore rescued his keeper again, heading clear Paul Beesley's header.

And when Schmeichel lost the ball again, Tom Cowan and then Agana had shots blocked on the line.

Disorganised United offered little apart from two wasted runs by Kanchelskis until Steve Bruce stormed up to thunder a header against a post from Neil Webb's corner.

Thunder

When United went ahead after 35 minutes it was totally against what had gone before.

John Pemberton needlessly conceded a corner and when Bruce header from Ryan Giggs' flag-kick the ball ran into goal off the shin of Beesley.

To complete Sheffield's first-half misery, Hoyland chipped over from eight yards after a mix-up between Bruce and Paul Ince.

BEST PLAYER: Parker



MARK HUGHES

Coppell gets Kop revenge

LIVERPOOL 1 CRYSTAL PALACE 2

SCOUSER Steve Coppell has waited two years to get revenge for the humiliation of a 9-0 thrashing at Anfield.

The taste was sweet as Coppell's captain Geoff Thomas nodded home the goal that paid Liverpool back in full.

Graeme Souness' side, minus six stars and all their confidence, took the lead a minute before half-time through Glen Hysen.

But Palace hit back in the 51st minute after appalling defending. A Southgate cross eluded Ablett and Tanner — and Gabbiadini reacted quickly to score his first League goal for Palace.

Liverpool were in a turmoil as Palace took control. And when substitute Rodger fired in a corner it was flipped on by Young and Thomas nodded home.

Souness sent on Rosenthal for the tiring Molby.

But Martyn brought off a great save from Saunders and Rush sent another header wide.

Souness may also be about to lose their talented reserve goalkeeper.

Rangers want the £500,000-rated star after costly blunders by Scotland No.1 Andy Goram.

BEST PLAYER: Parker

CAMBRIDGE UTD 0
BRISTOL C 0

BRISTOL CITY seemed to have arrived at Cambridge with no other aim than to pack their penalty area with a minimum of 10 men.

But the ploy worked and they were rewarded with a point, one of the few to escape from the Abbey Stadium this season.

ANDY SO HANDY

Leaning comes to the rescue

And what made it even more frustrating for Cambridge was that a win would have put them on top of the Second Division.

City manager Jimmy Lumsden made the shrewd move of playing Mark Aizlewood as a sweeper and with so many colleagues surro-

unding him, the visitors made sure of keeping a clean sheet.

Cambridge were frustrated by near misses, blocked shots and great keeping by Leaning.

Some of his saves showed exactly why he forced £200,000 Keith Welch out of the side.

John Beck's men had City under siege with

the wind behind them, but couldn't find a way through.

Eleven Cambridge corners also went to waste.

The only frail hopes City had of winning came from a number of breakaway attacks.

In the first half Martin Scott kept home keeper John Vaughan alert as he nearly caught

him out with two fierce drives that Vaughan did well to parry.

Vaughan then came to the rescue with another crucial stop from Wayne Allison.

A minute from time a great throughball from Gus Caesar, who was with Cambridge at the beginning of the season, bounced fiercely against a post.

Leeds are easy on idle Hans

WIMBLEDON 0 LEEDS 0

HANS SEGERS wants to leave Wimbledon. But why should he when he can play the First Division leaders without a care in the world?

All unhappy Hans had to do was pick off an angled shot from Rod Wallace when Lee Chapman was screaming for a pass.

Pluck a couple of crosses from Chapman and Tony Dorigo out of the air. And storm to gather up a ball diverted quickly toward his goal off Gary Speed.

That's hardly a burdensome work-load against a team that has started to fancy its title chances.

They knew it was tough getting to the top of the League, but this has taught Leeds it will be a lot tougher staying there.

So Wimbledon manager Peter White won his first point at his new club and it could so easily have been three.

Terry Gibson stole behind the Leeds defence with only a few seconds to go but pulled his shot wide of a post.

Leeds answered with a couple of long crosses from Mel Sterland which Chris Fairclough and Speed placed wide.

That was Leeds' trouble. They could not summon any decent shots on target.

BEST PLAYER: Speed.

Castle KO's Bally boys

LEYTON ORIENT 1 EXETER 0

ALAN BALL's face turned as red as his hair as he watched his side slip to their second consecutive League defeat.

The Exeter manager's frustrations were valid as his team dominated but failed to take the chances that should have broken Orient's unbeaten team run.

Orient took all three points thanks to Steve Castle's third goal of the season.

Castle scored on a rebound after keeper Kevin Miller could only push away a hard low shot from Andy Jones.



ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

BLACK TO THE FUTURE!

THE PEARL and Mr Podd agree; it's only a matter of time before black power hits soccer management.

The only questions cover when that last big breakthrough is made and whether it will be on merit or as some chairman's cheap publicity stunt.

Brendan (Black Pearl) Phillips says: "If you'd told me 10 years ago I would be a manager, I'd have laughed; I could never see that happening. But I am, and I'm sure the big breakthrough into the League will happen.

"I just can't say if it'll be me, but someone will break through. It's not an issue. The moment can't be far away, with people of the calibre of Cyrille Regis and other great black players reaching the end of their careers and surely with their experience they must have a chance, if they want it.

GIMMICK

Cyril (Ces) Podd echoes: "Yeah it'll happen. But when it does I hope it won't be done as a gimmick. It'll be enough of a burden for that first guy to carry. The eyes of the world will be upon him."

That could even be at Crystal Palace, whose chairman Ron Noades has had black publicity over reported doubts about black players.

Noades claims his views were totally misrepresented on Channel Four's Great Britain United, and says of the prospect of a black Football League boss. "It's more likely to be at Palace than any other club."

Pearl and Podd, disturbed viewers of that TV programme, might

be a little upset. However they're generous souls. But the main thing is, they have the pioneer spirit.

They are rarities, blacks who have beaten prejudice and unofficial colour bar to become soccer bosses.

SHARP

Phillips, known for his sharp suits, is in his second full campaign as player-boss of non-league club Bedworth near Coventry.

And Podd can't explain the nickname Ces, but it has stuck since his Bradford City days.

He's the boss of Bradford based Eccleshill in the North East Counties League.

Their career vehicles might be modest, but they have enough going

for them to suggest either could head short odds favorites Regis and Viv Anderson into a League hot seat.

These sons of West Indian immigrants are bright, ambitious and articulate.

There's no sign of shoulder chips or hangups, though they began playing in England when black players were persecuted novelties, branded lazy, lacking motivation and unlikely to see the winter through.

Phillips, 37, still has the legs to get around in midfield although it's nearly 20 winters since he signed as a Leicester apprentice for Frank O'Farrell.

He never quite made it in the League, but he was capped for England at non League level by Howard Wilkinson and for 12 years he's combined kicking around the circuit with a sales job at giant multi-national Nestle.

Podd, the third of six kids, was so green when he arrived from St Kitts at nine, 30 years ago, he thought on seeing his first terraced house that it was a large mansion.



CYRILLE REGIS.

"I can only assume it was because of the colour thing."

"I went back thinking 'That's that' and returned to college to my graphic design studies."

Instead, a friend persuaded him to try Brad-

ford City and his trial was so impressive they wanted him to sign at half-time.

He survived and broke numerous records with Bradford in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

Now, outside management, he's full-time community officer at Leeds United and fronts Night Shift, a weekly two-hour Radio Leeds magazine show designed for blacks.

Phillips sold himself to Bedworth at the first interview.

He says: "The job

was available, and thought. I wanted it and thought, why shouldn't I get it?

"I had good experience and been capped by my country. Why I shouldn't go in front of a board of directors and put my case?

"When that guy saw me he nearly fell off his seat. Then we both burst out laughing.

"What has bothered me is trying to bridge the gap between what players think at pro level and at this level, and how to make them remember from one week to the next.

"I get calls from black players wanting to play. I tell them the criteria is not your colour, but simply, can you play?"

based, not racist, says: "I've learned more over three months as manager than I did as a player.

"They all know me in Bradford and I've had no worries that way.

"What has bothered me is trying to bridge the gap between what players think at pro level and at this level, and how to make them remember from one week to the next.

"I get calls from black players wanting to play. I tell them the criteria is not your colour, but simply, can you play?"

★ Liverpool face being shot out of Europe this week by a striker who could soon be facing them in the League.

Auxerre's Kalman Kovacs, who struck the vital second goal in Liverpool's 2-0 defeat in the first leg of the UEFA Cup tie, is available at a bargain £350,000.

'Some coloured manager will come through and that time isn't far off'

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, November 9

★ World Soccer — 5.30pm

★ Main match: Germany v Wales — top-flight European Championship qualifier — a match the world champions had to win against the surprisingly successful Welshmen to keep their finals hopes alive.

Sunday, November 10

★ Italian Soccer — 10.30am

★ One hour reviewing last weekend in the highly acclaimed Italian league. Features a main match and all the goals in the First Division.

European Football — 11.30am

★ Main match: Rangers v Celtic — top of the league Scottish summit as the two Glasgow sides clash yet again in soccer's oldest rivalry.

He was the only black boy at his Leeds school. He was forced into one fight and recalls: "Never again, there must be some other way."

Since then, he's used humour and chat to disarm would-be bigots. But prejudice almost killed his career at birth.

An invitation to trial with Wolves ended in nightmare.

"I was the only black there, and the only one who went home without getting a game."

"I'm not conceited but as soon as I was interviewed I knew I'd get the job. I didn't feel any prejudice and I met the criteria."

The chairman asked me to come to the club for a few days for a look around and to get the feel of things and have a game in the reserves.

His arrival at the club was a jolt to one of the players.

"He arrived late for the game and I had to have a go," he said.

"He said to me 'Who are you talking to you black pig?'

"He didn't mean anything by it. There's racism in football, but mainly it's good natured."

"There might be a few mutterings among some of the Andy Capp old stager supporters, wondering what the place is coming to. But to me, the colour of a man's skin means no more than the colour of his eyes."

GAP

Ces Podd, finding his management problems at Bradford are football

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